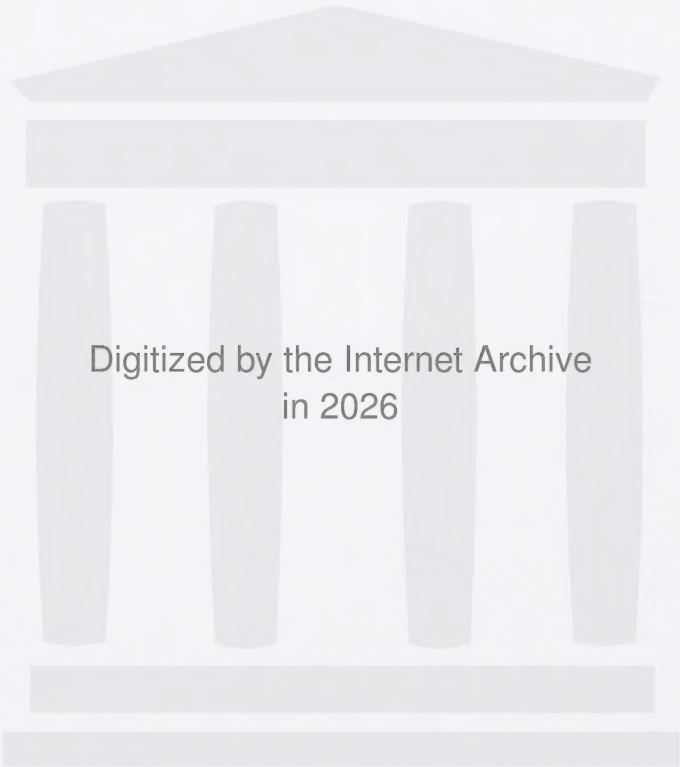
CRUSADE

H. N. VERMA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CRUSADE

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Be truthful and become many, fill the earth. - Jesus Christ
Go and spread the message. Don't Fear, I am always with you.

Dedicated to

(Late) Jagdeesh Rustagi

M.S. Kapur

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Hari Narain, 1926

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Philosophy, Science, Bibliography, Glossary, Index, Acknowledgements

INTRODUCTION

What is Crusade? Derived from Latin 'crux', crusade symbolizes crucifixion of Jesus and fight of Christianity against injustice. Crusade has been connected with one or all of the following:

1. Military expedition undertaken by Christians to recover Holy Land
2. Sanction of war\expedition by church
3. Opposition to an abuse
4. Action against conversion
5. Action against misrepresentation

(Cross is a symbol of crucifixion of Jesus; an upright post with a bar across the top on which ancient Romans fastened convicted persons to die. In the New Testament it has been used for clubs carried by those who came with Judas to arrest Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. In Chaldea, the shape of the two-beamed cross symbolized god Tammuz. In Egypt, the crux was Anastasia, a cross with handle on top of tombs. Emperor Constantine attributed to the God of Christians two signs of Cross which he had seen before his victory in the battle that brought him to the imperial throne.) Christianity imbibed several Greek myths of supernatural phenomena of gods on Olympus and Roman tenets and customs. The myths normally exemplary and ritualistically constructive created a static society in which logos (logic) suddenly broke and which engendered philosophy (meaning wisdom).The faith enunciated by Jesus Christ was influenced by Greek philosophers and Roman culture. But it is wrong to say that Christianity is synthetic or mythic; it is neither, it is historic. The terms Christian and Christianity are derived from Christ, honorific of Jesus, who was born to a couple of Nazareth, in Jerusalem, part of the Roman Empire in the Christian century era. Jesus grew up, was baptized and on the death of his baptizer, John the Baptist, Jesus took up to baptizing. His ideas, opposed to the prevailing Judaic practices, were

considered revolutionary for which the Roman authorities sentenced him to crucifixion. After crucifixion, Jesus resurrected and was honored with the name Christ, meaning the anointed one. His apostles (disciples, companions) propagated his ideas –Christianity- and the first generation of his followers came to be known as Christians. The term 'Christianity' was derogatorily used for the first time at Antioch by opponents. From the time of apostles, Peter and Paul in the first century, to the present, the evangelicals and missionaries have been engaged in preaching and crusading-proselytizing, baptizing and conversion of non-Christians of all ages and races with zeal and enthusiasm all over the world. The Bible commands Christians, "Be truthful and become many, fill the earth and subdue it."

Why go in details of development and progress of Christianity? This is necessary because now people think of religion as mere rites and rituals and are averse to knowing and understanding about its contribution to humanity. In the first five centuries of the Christian era, Christianity made swift progress within the domain of the Roman Empire. It drew on the ancient well-springs of Greco- Roman cultures, enjoyed their unified patronage and was accepted and imbibed by pagans and Jews and gentles. (Jesus was a Jew.) When the dust of imperial conquests of Roman emperors had settled down, capital Rome turned into a walled city governed by an emperor, though the real power rested and was exercised by two consuls and a senate annually chosen from among patricians. (Republicanism, democracy and secularism throve in the vast Roman Empire.) Greek became the lingua franca of the Mediterranean world. The Western society imbibed Greek and Roman concepts and they wanted others to imbibe these despite the opposition of Jews as well as Roman authorities. By the end of the second century, Christianity spread across the Mediterranean world. Outside the Roman Empire, Edessa had an important church where from it crossed over to North Africa, Egypt, Ephesus, Antioch and Lyons. Apostles Paul with Barnabas, John, and Mark travelled to Asia Minor proselytized Jews and Gentile, founded Church and influenced the faith in Alexandria and Carthage, Gaul, Vienna, and Lyons. Thomas took it to India. Paul assisted by Timothy, a Greek, preached the faith in Galatia. Besides, Paul wrote numerous letters to

believers. All this required courage and sacrifice by Christians who were persecuted. Nevertheless, the Christians were firm; their enthusiasm did not waver and they willingly suffered torture and execution. Paul was crucified in ACE 64, Peter in 68, Clement in 100, and Justin in 165. Origen of Alexandria was tortured and exiled. These sacrifices did not go in vain. Theologian Tertullian wrote, "If the Tiber reaches the wells, if the Nile does not rise to the fields, if the sky does not move or the earth does, the cry is at once, the Christians to the lion." He added, "Blood of martyrs is seed" which proved true. Seeded, it flowered and grew into gigantic proportions. In the Third century, Christianity penetrated in far off Britain. About their devotion, historian Pliny wrote: The Christians were in the habit of meeting on a fixed date before it was light. They sang an anthem to Christ as God and bound themselves by a solemn oath not to commit any wicked deed. "During the reign of Roman emperors - Nero (r. ACE 54-68), Domitian (81-96), Marcus Aurelius (161-180), Decius (249-251), and Valerian (253-260)- Christians were persecuted and they suffered, yet showed compassion to humanity.

The Greek culture, philosophy and democracy appealed to the Christian society. On Greek pattern, they established republics (commonwealths), an alternative to monarchy and city states. The vast Roman Christian Empire survived 1200 years and its eastern part two hundred years more. During this period Christianity penetrated in various parts of the world. The Christians continually faced perplexing issues of religion and prophesies as in:

Thou shall love thy Lord

Thou shall treat thy neighbor as thyself;

God loved the world so much that for man's good He gave his only begotten son; Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life;

Jesus said: No one else save me comes to the Father; talk, eat this, my body;

Go and preach the kingdom of God, feed my sheep, thou Peter will build my church on rock.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you; I have come not to bring peace but a sword. The Roman Emperor Constantine (312-337) felt that God had destined him to turn Christianity into a privileged religion. In 313 he granted freedom of religion in the Empire; in 315 he abolished punishment of crucifixion; he introduced Sunday as a festival; allowed Church to accept legacies. In 325 he convened the first Ecumenical Council; it was held at Nicaea. He built the Holy Church of Sepulcher (aka Anastasia\Resurrection) in Jerusalem. A Latin- speaking Church was founded with the Bishop of Rome as head (Papa or Pope). Many factors contributed to the establishment of Christianity: 1.It helped poor, 2. as a monotheistic religion it was progressive in comparison to polytheistic faiths and their myths, 3.Its ethics including clear answers to guilt and atonement, dying and immorality, and 4 assimilation of Hellenistic Roman society.

Controversies arose on several matters. These were discussed and settled in Councils. The Council at Chalcedon in 451 considered a contentious issue: Was Jesus a human being or a god or both? A solution offered by the Roman Emperor was not accepted and the Council could not undo the knot. This created a schism and the two – CHURCH AND STATE BECAME INSTITUTIONALIZED. They tried but failed in projecting a single unified Christianity. The Orthodox Christianity and Roman Christianity are heirs of the Roman life and beliefs. The institution of Pope also took shape.

The Barbarian attacks on Rome from the north weakened the Empire and for security reasons, the Emperor moved his capital to Constantinople. During the intervening period the Church gathered more power. By the 7th century the Greek language, with Christian support, ousted Latin as the lingua franca from the Roman Empire. Soon thereafter Christianity faced a threat from Islam, a new religion, and clashed with it when the Moors entered Spain through the Gibraltar and captured Christian cities and forcibly converted people to Islam. Elsewhere, Muslim armies attacked Christian kingdoms and since Christians were disunited and weak, they lost. The Pope appealed for Christian unity and the Church sanctioned Crusade against Muslims. This proved effective and some of the kings of West European countries came with their armies while some sent their armies.

Christians fought with ferocity to oust the Arabs who had as much history of barbarity; the Christians won and captured Jerusalem and ousted the Muslims. There were several confrontations in the Mediterranean and the war was long drawn. (In 1453 the Byzantine Empire at Constantinople fell and because of the chasm in the east the CHURCH TURNED INTO IMPERIAL MONARCHY. The Pope had a secret project of his own-to build a monarchy. This ran into difficulty because of people's dissatisfaction who wanted reforms in Church. There was a Counter Reformation and the western Christianity was torn into fragments. This proved a good augury as the Western Christian empires had begun to expand fast leading to the convergence of divisions transforming Christianity into a world religion; Christians were connected with one another and more closely knit than ever before. The Pope wanted to hold tight and curb dissatisfaction. The Christian empires- the Portuguese, the Spain, the English, the Dutch, the Danes, the Belgians (followed by Russians and others) pursued their imperial policies and expanded the area of their influence in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean. They devastated non-Christian empires, captured lands, treasures of gold, and enslaved men, women and children under the pretext of civilizing them. So insensitive were the greedy Whites of Spain that they did not spare even the gold in the Santa Monica; they melted it from temples across the Atlantic and sent it to the Catholic Church as a tribute to God from the King of Spain. (The papacy called peoples' discontent heresy and to subdue it, they introduced INQUISITION. The sorrowful results of Inquisition-anti-scientific operations Crusades and Conversions- caused divisions among Christians and clashes with adherents of other religions.)

The lure of spices, other commodities and natural resources attracted strong and well organized Europeans to the lands of weak and disorganized Brown, Black and 'Niggers' who could not stand up to them and fell one after the other. The Western powers apportioned areas of influence in the continents of Asia, Africa, America and Europe among themselves. The Tsars looked across the Caucasus and Central Asia till they reached the Pacific. The United States captured islands in the Pacific. Reformation, Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution enriched the Western world.

The Afro-Asian-American blacks and browns were impoverished. The colonial powers bragged about their benevolence and civilization missions; the English boasted that their vast Empire defied even sunset. The evangelicals kept themselves engaged in converting natives to Christianity. But discontent seethed among all - Christians and non-Christians.

During the 18th and 20th century ferocious clashes occurred amongst the have and have-not of the Western powers. The under developed countries were exploited and the strong ones became politically stronger. The evangelicals continued indulging in conversion. The Islamists were equally aggressive and resorted to terrorism to convert non-Muslims to Islam. In the mid-twentieth century when oil was found it was realized that in future oil and armament will play important role in business, technology and conflicts. Now everyone drums peace but concentrates in amassing these materials, and power. Talk big, do little, seems to be their motto. Not many Christians converted To Islam, Muslim rarely converted to Christianity. The sword of apostasy kept them at distance.

The World War II provided great powers an opportunity and impetus to find a peaceful way to solving disputes between countries and for this they established the United Nations (UNO) creating an impression that the colonialists would eschew greed and violence and that they genuinely wanted to usher in peace and harmony in the world. But that was a pious wish not to be fulfilled. Division of Palestine to create a state of Palestine for Jews, the ploy of the Anglo-French imperialists created an insoluble Muslim –Jew problem. Over 65 years most of the conflicts related to the Mediterranean. Two blocks of nations-Democracies and Communists-cropped up with their own solutions to disputes. International Court, International Monetary Fund, UNESCO, WHO and a bunch of several other agencies have been trying to find solutions to knotty problems but more often than naught their partisan ways complicate matters. Emergent China, after in-fighting, flexed its muscles on international scenario, consolidated its hold on what was an independent, peace loving neighbor Tibet and is bellicose, betraying its expansionist ambitions.. China and Japan are asserting their claims on two small Pacific islands. The matters relating to Kashmir, Korea, Vietnam, Egypt and Cuba remain unresolved,

while the countries on the Mediterranean, backed up by their powerful supporters are readying themselves to settle their disputes by force.

Religion is pervasive and it is not on its way out. It responds to the needs of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized, international relations and global politics, social values and state politics. It appears that people have lost interest in religion and think it has lost its vitality and its force is eroding. Don't take such a statement at its face value; even today the evils like inquisition which lie dormant can become active in the name of scriptures, and cause innocent blood flow. The Jihad, the Jatpat, and the Crusade are capable of mischief and cunning to cause mayhem. Don't forget, don't ignore.

The clock is ticking. The ambivalence between Secularism and State and the diminishing influence of religion keep on threatening to come back. Capitalism is determined to grow and make capitalists richer and make poor poorer. The attack of radical Islamists on New York on 9/11/2001 shook the world, besides causing USA immense loss of property and human life and prestige as a world power. President George W Bush declared war against terrorism and made Pakistan a U.S. strategic partner to combat terrorism and gave the strategic partners billions of dollars and huge stocks of armament. Not all partners played fair, some played foul and kept al Qaida in good humor. But terrorists did not hesitate in mounting attacks on NATO and friends. US succeeded in compelling Al Qaida Chief Osama bin Laden to hide in Pakistan. The strategic partner forgetting its duplicity was infuriated and called it invasion on its sovereignty, ignoring that elimination of the terrorists it had promised and it was in its own interest. However, it would be foolish to think that terrorism has met its doom. The crusade, as it is unfolding, is a trait of Western civilization.

The intra-faith prejudices and conversion are deeply embedded in both the Christian and the Islamic traditions. Their socio-political lives are based on their scriptures-Bible and Quran-which don't provide satisfactory solution to all their problems.

APPROACH TO CRUSADER

Fight for justice, this is what crusade meant for the Christians of Europe in the 11th century when their armies at Pope's motivation marched to retrieve their holy land, Palestine, and the sacred, eternal city of Jerusalem from the Muslims who had captured it. The crusade proved that time and tide waited for none. Religious anecdotes, philosophic tenets and scientific findings aside, saints stressed not to miss the tide, for no one knows when the tide may rise and when it will subside. While the way was shown by the scriptures, men remained stranded. The Bible showed them the way to salvation, the Quran found the way in His praise 'Allah O Akbar' (God is Great), and the Hindu finds 'Truth as One' on the basis of The Vedas and Upanishads. The wise say all disciplines –Religion, Philosophy, Science- take the seeker to destination.

A faith is vulnerable to the onslaught of accidents. The rise of a tide can be accounted for but its prediction in future a priori is unpredictable. The religious systems developed for the betterment of communities. Africa and the Middle East witness inhuman activities often. In the region Palestine poses problem for the peace of the world. Presently, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Nigeria etc are engulfed in conflicts. The cause of these tragedies is fundamentalism.

Christianity and Islam originated from uncontrollable burst of creative energy. Both are militant and both believe in crusading their way to convert people to their faiths. From the inception Christians suffered persecution but gradually many joined the stream of Christianity and in the process dismantled Judaic beliefs. Islam crushed tribalism and obstructions and marched forward, unconcerned about the feelings of the vanquished. They insisted on submission of the opponents and from the 8th to 17th centuries the flag of Islam fluttered in several parts of the world.

The Christian countries tried through crusades to halt the soaring tide of Islam. They experienced Renaissance, humanism, Protestantism and discovered new lands, rationalism and achieved scientific progress which changed the face of the world. They evolved democracy, universalism, globlization to unite the humanity. But the forces of capitalism (evolved by them) limit their approach to free market as one cure of world's all social, economic, political and other problems. The crusade is neither against social injustice nor against hoarding of wealth.

After World War Ii, the importance of religion had further diminished. The era of feudalism and imperialism was over, it appeared. The USA dominated the world after the collapse of the communist Soviet Union. Has the innate power of religion for transcending national barriers worked to its downfall? (Hindus had lost their original thinking and scientific progress and were stuck up what way back their great leader-scholar Acharya Shankar and Geeta and Yoga had taught. Encroachments by Islam and Christianity made them to sit and think of their past glory, of which the Anglophile and Western thinkers thought poorly and crusaded in conversion. The world would be a really peaceful, safer and better human habitat if evangelicals and fundamentalists refrain from conversion, creating jingo and causing conflicts. What world needs is not crusade (conversion); crusading spirit is needed.

Crusade is a part of Christian history, not a part of faith to be talked about from the pulpits of Church. Crusade is a spirit, an angularity. In the sense of conflict, the Crusade, the Jihad and Jatpat do not enforce sanity; people see in these a drama that ends in victory or defeat, death or infliction of death. The trauma seeks false romanticism ending in brutality. Superstitions infuse ignorance and don't stop there. The rampant religious intolerance, racism, and poverty add to human misery in the name of sanctity of religion, national pride and human rights.

CHRONOLOGY

B.C.E. 5: Birth of Jesus (The birth date '0' fixed by the Gregorian calendar is disputed.)

C.E. 28: Jesus starts his ministry as an itinerant preacher and gathers disciples.

31 Jesus is crucified, resurrected, ascends to heaven

50 Paul writes letters to some o4 Emperor Nero persecutes Christians The first Gospel of Jesus life and ministry by Mark

70 Jews' revolt against Rome fails, Jerusalem is sacked and the Temple is destroyed.

100 Christians in thousands and a large group of Palestinian were concentrated in Rome.

132 Roman Emperor demolished Jerusalem and rebuilt the city with temples dedicated to Roman gods. Clement of Rome (88-101), Ignatius of Antioch (98-117), Polycarp of Smyrna (110-160) and Iraneus of Lyon (180 202) were martyred; this was followed by numerous schisms, heresies, excommunications and gospels.

258 Emperor Valerian issued edict to massacre Christian Bishops and Deacons.

312 Emperor Constantine had a vision of a cross with words "By this sign conquer" after which the fall of Roman Empire begins and the Church becomes the state.

313 The Milan Edict legalizes Christianity and makes it Empire's state religion.

325 Constantine calls the First Council of Nicaea to unify Christology, unite believers against heresies and accept that Jesus was human and Son of God.

326 Emperor Constantine ordered Christian Bishops to find sites of Christ's

passion and build thereon shrines and churches. In Jerusalem he built Holy Sepulcher and his mother Helena brought to Rome Holy Stairs which Christ had trod upon when he went for his trial.

381 Nice- Creed and Agreement on Beliefs of Church approved.

406 Bible translated into Armenian.

432 Christianity becomes popular outside Empire; St. Patrick begins mission in Ireland.

455 Vandals sack Rome

476 Emperor Romulus deposed, The Roman Empire comes to an end.

491 Armenian Orthodox Church splits from Greek and Latin Church.

1053 Church splits into Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholics (in West).

1095: Pope calls for crusade.

1378: Papacy back from France to Rome.

1408: Vulgate translation of Bible by Wycliffe. Oxford Council decides that only approved scriptures be translated.

1453: Ottoman Turks capture Byzantine

1611: The James version of Bible appeared.

16thc: Further division in Roman Catholic Church and Protestantism

1523: Luther's Diet of Worms published.

1529: Muslim armies sacked Rome; Pope Clement VII placed under house arrest.

(Years and dates subsequent to 1529 are given in the body of the text.)

PART I

CHAPTER I

OF JESUS' BIRTH and APOSTLES

Christianity is the most wide spread religion but its comprehension is obscure due to its complexity, diversity and scriptures and it becomes difficult to spotlight anything significant about it that may be acceptable to all Christians. It is a historical religion whose Greco-Roman foundation was laid two millennia ago after the persecution of Jesus and his followers by Roman authorities. This raised Jesus as Christ, Messiah, Savior, Son of God. As conditions changed, Rome became the seat of the Catholic Christianity.

Jesus was born son of Virgin Mary and Josef, of the family of King David in the 14th generation of Abraham. It is believed that when Mary was espoused by Josef, she was found with child and that an angel who appeared unto Josef told him, fear not to take Mary as wife; what she is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost, call the son she shall bring forth Jesus, for he shall save his people from sins, and Emmanuel, that is God be with us.

Josef, a resident of Nazareth, in Palestine, a part of the Roman Empire was in compliance with Emperor Augustus' decree about people's registration, with Mary, on way to Jerusalem and when they reached Jerusalem, according to Luke's Gospel, unable to get accommodation they stayed in a stable where Mary delivered a child. (Mary and Joseph were engaged and not married.) She wrapped him in bands of cloth and lay in the manger.

Several folklores are associated with Jesus. One of these related to his birth is that when Mary delivered the child, shepherds living in the area saw an angel surrounded by the Glory of Lord. Three wise men travelling

to Jerusalem also saw a star in the east. They were all terrified; the angel pacified them and told them the good news of the advent of Messiah, the Lord, and when asked about the sign of the birth, he told them they would find a child wrapped in bands in the manger. Suddenly, they heard from the heavens an angel praising "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those he favors" and with this saying, the angel left. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see the thing the Lord has made us known." So they went and saw Mary and Josef and the child in the manger. Others whom they told were amazed to see the child and returned glorifying and praising God. Three wise men travelling to Jerusalem saw a star in the east and heard of a child's birth. They went to Herod and told him of the birth and that they wanted to worship him, the future king of Jews. Herod demanded to know of the chief priest and the scribe about the birth of the child and sent the wise men to Bethlehem. They saw the child but did not return to Herod as they were asked to do.

The parents pondered over whatever was going on and presented the child in the temple. An angel appeared to Josef in a dream and told him they should go to Egypt for safety's sake, and he will tell them when to return. They hurried to Egypt. Latter when Herod was dead, and the angel advised them, they returned to Galilee. Josef took to his work at Nazareth. On attaining adulthood Jesus took to his father's work and he was baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. In the wilderness of Judea, Jesus saw the spirit of the Lord descending like dove upon Jesus. A voice from heaven was heard saying, "This is my beloved son". Jesus was led up to the spirit in the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. After 40 days and nights, the Devil came to him and tempted, 'If thou be the son of God, command these stones be made bread.' Jesus answered: It is written that man should not live by bread alone but by every word proceeding from the mouth of God. Thou shalt not tempt the Lord, the God. While baptizing people, John used to ask 'to repent for the kingdom of heaven was at hand'. He prophesied the advent of the Messiah.

When the Roman authorities saw some danger in John the Baptist, they executed him. On hearing of this, Jesus took to preaching.

His looks and eloquence attracted people. When crowds swarmed, Jesus left Nazareth and dwelt in Capernaum. He cured people, healed them, cast out demons, quieted storms, parted waters, revived a dead to life. Such miraculous deeds attracted crowds. He baptized Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John. He taught in synagogues and preached the gospel of kingdom. He went about followed by multitudes of people from Judea, Jerusalem and beyond Jordan and then to a mountain and taught his disciples the Sermon on the Mount: How to settle disputes, pray, the nature of material things, lead family life, maintain relationship with others, work habits and attain happiness. The seed of faith sowed by Jesus was Christianity.

GRECO-ROMAN BACKDROP

Historians trace the roots of Christianity sown in Jerusalem which had been conquered by Rome a century before Jesus' birth from King Herod the Great. The main events of Jesus' life generally noted are: birth, baptism, ministry, wonderworks, crucifixion, and resurrection, each of which was contentious. Jesus' birth by Virgin (Mary) had to be sanctified. Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist and his survival for 40 days in a desert storm and return to earth after securing spiritual power from Spirit, soaked with power, remains a mystery. Jesus' fight for the sanctity of the Temple against the irreligious conduct of priests and traders who connived by Roman authorities, resulted into Jesus' crucifixion. Resurrection played a significant role in onward march of Christian faith. Death goes with life-after- death ever remained a matter of inquisitiveness and so it is even today. Jesus, born a Jew, was acknowledged a prophet. In the tradition of Hebrew prophets and seers, he mediated between the world and the Spirit (creator) from whom he drew power to help the suffering people and oriented them to missionary work and infused joy in them. The Spirit had announced Himself at different times to seers like Moses, Elijah. Those Individuals who took initiative to realize God, through fasts and prayers, were blessed and they soaked His power.) The Hebrew tradition helps explain the various unusual events. (John the Baptist had declared that the rite of circumcision was not sufficient as a dedication of the

individual to God and has substituted the rite of baptism which is a foreign practice and discarding it was a heresy on the Jews. (The Gentiles were uncircumcised people.)

A NEW SOCIAL ORDER

Jesus was against division of people and did not like distinguishing them as Jews or Gentile, clean or unclean, pure or defiled, sacred or profane, righteous or sinner. He viewed such distinctions as barriers and oppressive. He foresaw a new social order of equality of people in the social system. His followers had to break 'the shell of Judaism'. His actions, good deeds and miracles –whether performed by him or attributed to him - drew multitudes of people and with compassion he healed sick, treated socially misfits, people in despair, outcastes and harlots assuring them of reaching the Kingdom of God before many perfunctorily righteous individuals. A wind of freedom blew through his teachings. Jesus wanted his followers to love everyone and not deflect by postponement. Christianity was a one-man show against ignorance and greed. The glory of Jesus edged his followers to conclude that he was divine and Son of God.

When conversion (which means substantiation of a man from one religion to another religion) took place, it caused radical displacement in relationship between man and supernatural power as also in beliefs and traditions of the affected families. A century before Jesus' birth Jerusalem had come under the domain of Rome and its laws and rules, people thronged to pray and secure safety to Jerusalem. Cicero, Plutarch and other Greek scholars defined relationship of nature with divinity whereas Aristotle recounted relationship between Pagans, Jews and Christians, and as the transition of pseudo Dionysus writing was mediated by Neo-Platonic mystics, silence prevailed from Syria to Ireland. Christians enriched religion, philosophy, science and culture of the Mediterranean world and Franciscan friars visited places for evangelical purposes. Cardinal Nicholas of Susa suggested a FEDERATION OF RELIGIONS! Descartes asserted that religion was the distinguishing mark of man, there were no real atheists. Religion acknowledged a blessed Supreme with eleven attributes – self- existence, first cause, energy, eternal, good, just, wise,

infinite, omnipotent and free. Man's duty is to worship the Deity and repent sin because the world is governed morally and gets rewards in the next world for his virtuous conduct in the present world.

The Romans had deprived the Jews of freedom and levied on people heavy and unheard of taxes. The Jews lacked unity and tolerated injustices done them. They were divided into four categories – Seduces, Essenes, Pharisees, and Zealots on the basis of differentiation between pure and defiled, sacred or profane, clean or unclean, Jew or Gentle, righteous or sinner. The Seduces who were well off had adjusted themselves to the Roman demands, the Essenes disciplined themselves and worked with the Romans, the Zealots were dissatisfied and launched sporadic resistance against the Roman rule (and culminated into a revolt beginning 66 and ending 70 ACE in the destruction of their most revered Temple.

Jesus was closer to Pharisees' who stressed Yahweh's holiness while Jesus stressed on Yahweh's compassion. Jesus viewed the differences among the Jewish people an affront to Yahweh's compassion and challenged the social order by advancing an alternative version through his activities. He dined with outcastes and sinners, socialized with prostitutes and tax collectors, healed people on the proscribed day of Sabbath, went about rendering good to the needy, and helping them in their despair by action and speech. Jesus' followers believed in his goodness accounts of which find place in Gospels. The good deeds projected Jesus, he did not project himself. He inspired and impressed people who came to meet him. He wanted compassion in social order, not a compassionate God. This placed Jesus at odds with Pharisees who lodged protests against him. The priests bore grudges against Jesus as his actions affected their credibility and accused him of making a nuisance of himself when he came to visit the Temple at the time of Passover. They created a scene, (taking cognizance of which the authorities arrested, prosecuted and sentenced Jesus to death by crucifixion). A miracle happened –Jesus resurrected!

Here are a few select sayings of Jesus: Blessed are poor in spirit; who mourn, meek, do hunger and thirst, are merciful; pure in heart, peace makers, persecuted, rejoice, salt of the earth, light of the world;

light a candle to give light unto all shine, they may see your good works; glorify father who is in heaven; don't look at woman with lust; divorce after fornication is adultery; don't think of eye for eye; whosoever smites thee on cheek, turn to him your other cheek; love thy neighbor, love thy enemy; bless them who curse you; when you give alms, let not thy left hand know what your right hand does.

After resurrection, on Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared before his followers. As per Gospel, Thomas touched the wound in his side while others saw him passing through the closed doors. His followers saw in him divine qualities. But their claim that Jesus was alive was rejected by the authorities. In grief and dismay, they dispersed. However, their belief that Jesus was divine was not shaken. For them Jesus Christ was personified goodness, power and beauty and divinity. The resurrection reversed the cosmic position. For them Jesus became Christ, the Church and Christology, while the Cross became goodness. From Jerusalem the message spread all over the Mediterranean world. Yet there were people who resented Christian thought. An incident is worth recall -how detractors of Jesus mocked at Christ. In 1988, the author with his family went to see a movie in a theatre in San Francisco. We were inquisitive to know why there was so much criticism of that film in the media. We joined a winding line to purchase tickets while nearby a mob was protesting against the screening of the film. My wife's Sari attracted protesters, some of whom came and pleaded with us not to see the film. 'You people coming from the land of Gandhi should not see the movie; it portrays Jesus in an indecent way?' I politely told them that it would be improper for me to opine on the film without seeing it and that Mahatma Gandhi had called Mayo Catherine's "Mother India" 'a gutter inspector's report' only after going through Mother India. The protestors disappeared.

CHURCH IS BORN

After crucifixion of Jesus, Jesus followers, to overcome their grief and feeling of loss and uncertainty, formed groups to share their leader's memories and ideas. Meetings became the medium of spreading and proliferating Christ's message of compassion, that helped them in building the Church – 'the Kingdom of God'. Did Jesus give his companions any

mantra? The study of the Bible and History of Christianity inform us that at the initial stage, the 'faith' was built with the help of Apostles (close companions-disciples of Jesus) who were witness to good deeds of Jesus Christ and had also heard him speaking. They developed belief systems and morals and popularized Jesus' views among people; they believed that Jesus' spirit had turned into communion with God. The Gospels and the Book of Apostles inform us that the risen Jesus spoke to his close followers and clarified that whatever had happened was according to the scriptural prophesy. They believed in the Holy Spirit as guide that had turned into a communion with God and upon them descended the tongue of fire: They became eloquent speakers and exploded across the Greco-Roman world. They preached Gospels (i.e. good news) in the churches of Palestine.

The Roman authorities considered the preaching of Jesus' followers as heretic arrested and persecuted some of them and forced many to leave Jerusalem. But wherever they went, they taught people the Christian faith. They were not deterred by fear, guilt, or ego. Christ had told them not to fear, for "I am with you."Amongst themselves they shared irrepressible joy and sang songs of divine experience – to them life was discerned glory. They turned into a dynamic group. People who heard them found the secrets of life and were convinced that Jesus was Son of God. They evinced tranquility, simplicity and cheerfulness and had mutual regard for each other. They were equal in the eyes of God and thought that only power of love could free man from curses of fear, ego and guilt. Many became martyrs. The Christians felt from the very beginning that love of Christ was love for God. Christ had embraced sinners, outcastes, Samaritans and enemies, and to them Jesus was Savior. His contemporaries nicknamed Christians the messiah-folks. As Jesus' spirit was not visible, they became spiritual. The Holy Spirit flowed from resurrected Jesus and by the fourth century spiritual identity embraced the believers with love. The early Christians believed in God, Holy Ghost and Christ - the Trinity that non-Christians found pluralistic.

Paul had adopted Church as an image, a symbol of Jesus' body. Christ and Church were synonymous. The human body of Christ had left the

earth but he was continuing to complete his incomplete mission through the Church. Saint Augustine later observed: What the soul is to the body of man, Church is for the body of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. CHRIST WAS SOUL, CHURCH HIS BODY. The claim of the Orthodox Christians that there is no liberation for man outside the church is religious imperialism for the Protestants.

To emphasize the importance of BIBLE as the base of belief systems of Christian community and Church, the Bible is in two parts – Old Testament and New Testament. Old Testament, the Jew Scripture, is part of Christian scripture as well, as Jesus was born a Jew. It (20) consists of Pentateuch (story of creation, beginning of humanity, Abraham's journey from Ur to Cannon, the Promised Land, liberation from Egyptian slavery, Exodus, Ten Commandments. Worship of Yahweh, poetry, wisdom and hymns – Psalms, proverbs and song of songs, prophets, denunciation of godliness, golden age, advent of Messiahs. The New Testament comprised of 27 Books by 367 BCE, including four synoptic Gospels (Mathew, Mark, Luke and John).

GOSPELS

Gospels, meaning good news, are teachings of Jesus and his apostles and they form part of the Bible. Gospels narrate the events in the life and teachings of Jesus. The first four gospels of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. (An excerpt from any one of these, read in any religious service is also known as Gospel.) Their contents vary. Only Matthew and Luke tell about Mary's encounter with an angel, affirm that Jesus was born son of Josef, a descendant of King David, at Bethlehem ruled by King Herod the Great; Joseph and Mary came from Nazareth, a village in the northern Galilee district. Luke tells Jesus was born in a stable and shepherds came to see him. Matthew tells, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son" and there appeared a star and three kings from the east, they understood the phenomenon and announced that a new king was born on that Roman holiday being celebrated as the winter solstice.

(Jesus' birth is celebrated with great enthusiasm all over the world. *Some of the Christian customs e.g. Christmas tree, Santa Claus, Lights, Holly, and Mistletoe are celebrated by the Christian world even though these have little to do with Jesus' birth. (The events of his death and resurrection are also celebrated.) Besides the four gospels, there are other little known gospels like those of Philips, Thomas and Mary Magdalene and some others that are lost. He is revered as one of the greatest personages who ever treaded on earth. However, some skeptics find the story of his birth as more of a myth than reality though The crusading spirit of Jesus Christ to improve the lot of humanity is not denied).*

Paul and some others had taught that Jesus would soon return from heaven and he would overthrow forces of evil and establish His kingdom. This account fascinated people and the communities of early Christians multiplied. The churches set by Paul were charismatic. He cured a man who was bed-ridden for the past eight years. But the prophecy of the end of world did not come out true and it began to fade away. Christian communities faced opposition from Jews and pagans who saw the new faith as a threat engaged in immoral practices; they persecuted the Christians. Persecution became official and Roman authorities arrested and tried to force them to go back to paganism. By the second half of the second century apologies became popular form of Christian writing and anti-heretic treatises were written. They got involved in establishing orthodoxy. The first commentary on a scripture (John's Gospel) came from a heretic Gnostic named Hercules. In the 3rd century homilies became common. Some Christian books on beliefs and practices became scripture. Before Polycarp, Christians used to hear to Jewish scripture during worship services but soon afterward certain Christian writings began to be cited as authoritative. At that time one Roman ship builder Marcion produced a canon (a collection of books). Three decades later IRANAEUS, bishop of Lyon wrote against those heretics and Gnostics who accepted only John's Gospel. Christianity was a highly literate religion.

The persecution and torture of Jews by Roman authorities formalized Christianity. The Christians embraced and shared poverty, reached out to widows, loved one another, expecting a "new kingdom of God"

to turn up soon. But at this juncture they lacked a central authority of Church to coordinate efforts and provide guidance. It came up. In Rome Octavian, son of Julius Caesar, after his victory at Actin adhered to the Republican Constitution and gave himself the name Augustus. The Augustus Constitution tore down political frontiers around the Mediterranean, controlled piracy, and made travel safer and easier. This gave Apostle Paul opportunity of greater exposition of Christian faith at different and distant places. Emperor Galerius announced that Christianity should be officially tolerated. However, it was the adoption of Christianity by Emperor Constantine (r.312-37) as state religion, and building and commissioning of structures by him as the 'Church' that gave the faith the biggest boost. Constantine declared himself convert and in 313 recognized Christianity as a state religion like other religions of the Empire. He assimilated the organization of the Church to that of state. The church provinces would be imperial provinces (Diocese), each with a metropolitan and a provincial synod. All this meant the Empire had its imperial church with its ecumenical creed-One God which became the church and Empire law-one God, one Emperor, one empire, one church, and one faith.

Constantine pursued a tolerant policy. On his death in 337, his sons divided the empire. One of his sons, the Lord of the east, was intolerant of the pagans and threatened death penalty for superstition and sacrifice. Pagan temples were closed and sacrifices were stopped. Christianity permeated political institutions, religious convictions, philosophical thoughts, art and culture. The persecuted church became the persecute church. The heretics became enemies of the Empire and they were punished. Forgetting that the Roman Hellenistic empire's roots were Jewish, Emperor Theodosius (r. 378-95) made Christianity the official state religion. An Eastern Centre was established at Byzantium that immensely helped in consolidating and spreading Christianity outside the Empire. (Ireland and Scotland were good instances). Mass (Bible-reading) in various local languages also brought popularity to Christianity. This necessitated codification of beliefs, honoring picked up favorites for successful accomplishments. Christianity throve expeditiously but in its

rapid development it lost its original zeal and much of its simplicity. (The Roman Constitution worked until extinction of the Empire in 1453. For his devotion to the faith, Emperor Constantine is comparable to India's Emperor Ashok (B.C.E.304-232) who adopted Buddhism as the Maurya State religion. Buddhism spread out not only all over India but it also took his message of peace and happiness and it was embraced by humanity and is well recognized in history.)

[THEOLOGICAL DOCTRINES AND SPIRITUALLIFE ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN.]

THEOLOGY

Theology helps develop spiritualism to a Christian, by spiritualism he means selfless love for and experience of invisible God. (Theology is the study of nature of God and doctrines of religion.) Theology crystallized in a mysterious paternalistic power of the Deity. Christianity's three distinct tenets are - Incarnation, Embodiment and Trinity, besides beliefs, rituals and spiritual experiences that resolve ambiguities in symbolic forms. Creeds are its bedrock.

INCARNATION: The burden of Apostles' Creed was that Christ was man as well as God who took birth, suffered, died and was buried. These events of Jesus' life touched human heart and any doubt about these was heresy, of which the primary test was quasi human, quasi divine backdrop of Olympian deities. But the Christian deity did not fit into Jesus' frame-work and Christ's humanity appeared to be slipping out. People did not believe in his radical social views which to him appeared heretical, justifying persecution of Christians and stamping out of the new sect. Christians bore the suffering and believed that God was concerned about the suffering of humanity and so did his Son. In the second century a Christian leader elucidated that God became man so that he might become God. Things changed when Roman Emperor Constantine, a beneficiary of the faith, decreed tolerance for Christianity and treatment to it equally with other religions. A conference convened by Constantine at Nice in 325 ACE decided that God and Christ were made of the same substance.

The Chalcedon Conference affirmed that Christ was God's son and God had assumed a human body in Jesus who was both 'fully God and fully man'. The Church admits that such assertions are opaque. Science also offers similar explanation and religious-minded people assert that Logic does not comprehend the reality of Religion.

ATONEMENT: (or Reconciliation between God and humanity in the Old Testament): In Christ God reconciled himself to the world for the sin Adam had committed by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden; it had to be recompensed to ward off God's justice against God, the ultimate penalty being death, which God paid through the person of Jesus and his death cancelled the penalty. This meant release of humanity from bondage of sin. God had prescribed that man pursue Ten Commandments and breach of any one of these invites estrangement from Him. St Augustine said sarcastically, 'Love God and do whatever you will!' This attachment - bondage to oneself involves fear and guilt of estrangement from full participation in the divine life. Liberation comes from outside – from Christ or God.

TRINITY: The doctrine that God is one and also three i.e. Trinity, a Godhead, a society of three beings - God, Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ. This concept was evolved in the fourth century when Christians were thought of as Yahweh's extension and Christ was being accorded divinity. The advent of Pentecost brought vitiation. Suddenly from heaven came a sound like the rush of a violent wind which filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongue, as a fire, appeared among them and it rested on each of them. All were filled with spirit.

[Islam is strictly monotheistic; it believes in one God whom it calls Allah with numerous attributes. Hindus believe in one God, Isha, (who is omnipotent, omniscient and benevolent) and is a trinity of gods of creation, destruction and welfare, known as Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh. Beside there are innumerable deities each one performing his specific function.]

APOSTLES

The 12 companions of Jesus, known as apostles, were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Mathew, Simon Barnabas, John, Mark, Luke, Paul and Judas. (For betrayal of Jesus out of remorse Judas committed suicide.) Peter was their head. They laid the foundation of the church, developed its spiritual practices and morality and constructed buildings for worship by their simplicity, evangelism, love of Christ and community feelings. The church appealed to the poor and oppressed and their congregation, worship and celebrations. Sometime aggressive evangelicalism furthered the cause of faith. Christians left behind their old ways of life to secure a new way. They evolved Baptism and other services. The new faith attracted increasing number of converts. (The authorities felt threat to their traditions and values from Gnostics, Marcioni and Montana.) They suffered torture. Innumerable Christians were persecuted. Yet they maintained tranquility and equality and men and women who heard them were convinced that Jesus was the Son of God and that only the power of love could free man from curses. From the beginning Jesus expressed love for God and embraced sinners and enemies. The companions found that the love for Christ had transformed their life. Today the church has ecclesiastical buildings, robes and hymns and its hallmarks are simplicity, community and evangelism and love. The congregation, worship and celebrations in the church appealed to the poor and oppressed. Their aggressive evangelism furthered the cause of evangelism. Christians left behind their old way of life and took the way to God. Baptism and services attracted increasing number of converts.

PETER was one of those three persons who had witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus; (The other two were Moses and Elijah). The Holy Spirit told them 'This (Jesus) is my son.' After crucifixion of Jesus, Peter was the first to speak to crowds. He cured a beggar's leg. Peter favored conversion of anyone who was willing but not all his companions were in favor of this and a controversy arose when he converted Cornelius: Whether the conversion of a gentile (non-Jew) was proper? Peter was supported only by Paul. Later Peter sent Paul with Barnabas to the Mediterranean for evangelization. Peter was arrested by King Herod and

was sent to jail wherefrom he wrote letters, organized missions, made appointments, and introduced episcopal succession. He escaped from the prison but was arrested and martyred. Most of the apostles and several missionaries met the same fate.

JAMES the Great went to Judea and Samaria. He was beheaded by Herod in Jerusalem. His body was carried to the shore where a boat materialized and took it away to the coast of Spain where the relics were found; on that spot a new city named Santiago de Compost was founded and a shrine was built where during Crusade soldiers prayed for military power.

ANDREW who at the instance of Jesus fed loaves and fish to 5000 people; he played a great role in popularizing the faith in Scotland, Greece and Russia. In Greece and Constantinople, he founded churches. He was martyred. In 1204 the crusaders seized Constantinople and took St Andrews' relics to Adelphi (Italy) that were allegedly taken by an angel to Scotland.

BARNABAS who accompanied Paul to the Mediterranean was martyred at Antioch in A.D.59.

PAUL (initially Saul), born a Jew in Taurus, was converted and became the Church's first missionary and theologian. Jesus entrusted him the care of his mother and, Paul and Peter organized the early Christian church. He was in Greece a witness to the risen Jesus and became a powerful guide and for inspiring the Christian faith, he is considered second to Jesus. He planted churches throughout Asia Minor and. The Book of Apostle mentions churches that he set up at Antioch, Cypress and Damascus. He was ridiculed, driven from town to town, shipwrecked and flogged. He wrote several letters developing and expounding Christian theology that were read at gatherings at several places. In A.D. 50, he went to Damascus and from there to Jerusalem where he participated in a Council meeting that discussed the rules of conversion. In Cypress he criticized the Jewish Talmud law that imparted knowledge of sin and provoked people to dwell on evil thoughts instead of inspiring them to do good deeds as were taught by Jesus. He was arrested at Rome and beheaded at the Fontaine on

26 June A.D.60, the very day Peter was. Paul's secretary TITUS converted people in Crete. He was beheaded and his head was sent as relic to Venice.

MATTHEW, a tax collector who after Jesus' ascension became a missionary, authored the First Gospel. He tells that the mother of Jesus was betrothed to a rich man of Royal pedigree named Josef of Bethlehem. An angel pronounced that Jesus is the son of the Holy Ghost and that he must not accuse her of infidelity. He was martyred in Ethiopia from where his relics were sent to a safe place.

MARK, the author of the Second Gospel went for evangelization purposes to Egypt.

LUKE, a Greek doctor, authored the Third Gospel, the Acts of Apostles, and wrote about women who played important role in Christ's life.

JOHN authored the Fourth Gospel, three Epithets and Book of Revolution. Exiled from Jerusalem, John died in Ephesus.

Thomas went to Syria and India, and Andrew to Russia.

CHAPTER 2

EARLY AND MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY

The beginning of Christianity is shrouded in darkness; our main sources of information are the Bible and the Roman history. The Bible, the holy sacrament of Judaism and Christianity, is in two parts-the Old Testament of Jews and the New Testament of Christians. Though the Old Testament is sacred for Jews, Christians also revere it inasmuch as Jesus Christ was born a Jew and the Christian belief is based on Jewish faith. The church is teaching authority as well as sacramental agent. It is believed that God came to the earth in the person of Jesus Christ to teach people the way to attain salvation and inherit eternal life. His teachings were compiled in the form of Bible and these are infallible and as for morals, the Holy Spirit protects the Pope from error. The church advises the way of life and empowers the faithful to live accordingly.

The New Testament consists of 27 books (including four synoptic gospels). It was compiled in 367 ACE. The Roman sources lack information about the crucial period between Christian eras 30-50 and 50-60 C.E. which is mired in threat, horror, persecution and execution of Christians under the authoritarian Roman rulers who connived with Jewish priesthood. They saw threat in the Christian movement to their own power and made all efforts for its extinction through all available means. The Christians faced the onslaught with courage and they were not deterred from carrying on their movement and the history of Christianity of over two millennia shows that from the very beginning the faith was imbued with crusading spirit. Did Jesus found the Church? After Jesus' crucifixion, his apostles spread his message by word of mouth, through writing and personal visits and more importantly by their conduct. While Paul's letters refer to persons, places and disputes, the Acts recounts deeds of Apostles Peter and Paul and Luke's traditional material which is full of tensions that prevailed among Christians.

Jesus wanted to announce God's imminent Kingdom for Salvation. He called on man to love others, even his opponent. A powerful preacher, he was also a powerful healer of body and soul. The Early Christianity shared Jewish belief in one God, the scripture, Sabbath and festivals, regulations on cleanliness, psalms, food and circumcision. Jesus' proclamation of kingdom became for people one of Messiah and the gospel preached by him became gospel about him. A Christian was one who believed in Christ, was baptized in Christ's name, took part in thanks-giving at meal in his memory. Christianity began with crusading spirit for purity and dream for equality, fraternity, and universal brotherhood. From time to time there was call for solidarity with the oppressed and impoverished, and genuine efforts were made to correct the deviations but there existed tendency to return to the forsaken path in the name of spiritualism.

Jesus, after baptism, was accused of deviating from the path of faith by the religious and political authorities who treated and punished him with crucifixion. (Was this Jewish crusade against Jesus?) The Jesus' followers' persecution (later called Christians) caused their break from Jews. More executions followed. Those executed included Stephen, James (son of Zebedee), James (brother of Jesus), and Peter which caused anguish among people. The destruction of the second temple of Jerusalem by Romans in 70 ACE added to the fuel. Excommunication of Christians by a Jewish Council composed of Pharisees also affected their relations. The Jewish Christians, the heir of early Christians preserved their beliefs and patterns of life that turned into Manichean. In 64, Emperor Nero had a number of Christians executed as a scapegoat for a great fire which he himself had staged. Rome replaced Jerusalem as the centre and leading church of Christianity. Emperor Domitian (81-96) declared another persecution. But Christians were not distracted from their faith; they did not stop Eucharist festivities but conducted these in their houses. Ignatius of Antioch, the famous theologian was another victim of execution. The breach widened after the excommunication of followers of Jesus by a Jewish Council of Pharisees.

The Church of Rome founded by Peter became the responsibility of the Bishop of Rome. Fabian was the first Bishop of Rome (249-251) and

under him the church of Rome developed. (He was murdered.) In 330 Constantine shifted his capital to Byzantium. Pope Sylvester built many churches even on pagan churches. By 5th century Barbarians entered Rome through Rhine and burst the dam on the river.

The heirs of Early Christianity - Jewish Christians - preserved their ancient beliefs and patterns of life. Some of them later turned Manichean. Thereafter Rome became the centre and leading church of Christianity and Christian population increased inexorably, despite the execution of its popular leaders such as Ignatius (of Antioch), Polycarp (Smyrna) who composed writings for use in church. They wrote in Greek, and expounded Christian views in Hellenistic terms and dogmas. Justin used Platonic metaphysics and said the myths were nothing but superstitions. He acclaimed Socrates and Aristotle, synthesized philosophy and theology, and implanted seed of truth and wisdom.

The persecution and suffering of Christians at the hands of Romans laid the seed of foundation of Christian faith. Since 380 when Christianity was proclaimed the official religion of Roman Empire, it began enjoying equal rights with other religions. The Menophytes raised a controversy about the nature of Jesus Christ- Was he human or divine? The differences in opinions caused separation of Eastern Church from Orthodox Church.

MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANIITY

The Dark Ages (400-1500) produced two towering figures- St Augustine (354-430) and Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) who laid groundwork for interpretation of Christianity. Augustine was a witness to Rome's defeat in battle, its sacking by Barbarians and division of the Roman Empire in two parts that left Rome no longer administrative, political and intellectual centre of the once most powerful empire. Rebellions occurred frequently and during this period Christians became dominant in Europe.

St. AUGUSTIN (354-430) is regarded as the greatest theologian of the first millennium. Born in a Roman town in North Africa, in youth

he was a hedonist and latter taught in Carthage, Rome and Milan. Ever devoted to learning, he continued to learn about religious pluralism, mystery religions, savior god Mithras\Osiris, Adonis\ Attis Orpheus\ Dionysus, two eternal elements God and Matter, good and evil, truth and falsehood. In 386 Augustine converted to Christianity and studied Greek thought and Neo-Platonism from Ambrose. He was influenced by the idea of Logos that deviates between the divine and physical world. He was appointed bishop of Hippo where he produced many philosophical works. Faith is central to his vision of Christianity. He said that reason should be subordinate to truth. God is omniscient, omnipotent and benevolent and his grace illumines the mind. A philosopher loves wisdom which comes from truth. The highest truth is God. One who loves truth loves God. Eternal truth is the foundation of morality and God's divine will is the eternal law. Augustine argued that perfect happiness cannot exist in the world.

A theist's dilemma is how to reconcile the Judeo-Christian assumptions pertaining to God. Why does evil exist? All natural evils (like earthquake, flood, drought. plague war) are payment due to original sins and all moral sins (rape, genocide, war) are also due for original sin. Evil is explained as the absence of full goodness and reality i.e. God. In his 'City of God' he says the most important thing of life is individual's relationship to God and not material success. Lesson: Do not focus on this world, instead focus on eternity. Give up reason, it alone cannot provide guidance in the form revelation can. This is the base of Christian morality. The best thing is to look upon God as absolute order; to love God is to love order. Plato had said senses submit to God and worship of God is the greatest virtue.

The Greek thoughts, especially those pertaining to Socratic truth, Plato's knowledge and Aristotle's interpretation of natural law was grounded and implanted by God; and these had deep influence on Christianity. But thereafter Dark Ages entered Western Europe. Augustine considered Christianity as the best religion and thought it was good Christians' duty to convert pagans to Christianity. It became essential to have a common agreement for the Christian creeds to satisfy doubts

and offer systematic explanations to doctrines. Christianity offered spiritual refuge of faith, knowledge of astronomy, astrology and surgery, and reliance on prayer and miraculous healing. Finally, Christianity exercised political authority and it became militant. For eight hundred years it had no rival in Western Europe and everything was Christian - education was Christian, institutions were Christians, and stress was on faith and memorization. Christian philosophy was St Augustine's and Greek philosophy, occasionally Neo-Platonism was interpreted in the manner taught by Augustine. People were taught that human beings were creation of God who was benevolent, and he had created reality for their benefit. The church taught that nature though transient, ephemeral and decaying was superior to human beings. In nature we can see the divinity in the sky and earth as also His plan as written in sun, moon and stars.

In about 1000 A.C.E. Christian tradition was divided into: (1) Roman Catholic Church, a strong centralized organization in Western Europe, headed by Pope who looked for leadership towards Rome, and (2) independently administered Eastern Orthodox Church in central part of Roman Empire that looked to Constantinople for spiritual authority. The popes became equal to kings in the period before Aquinas, and they initiated crusade in the name of Christianity. During crusade all believers had faith in the creeds and doctrines of God and punished those who believed in other doctrines.

CRUSADE GAVE INTELLECTUAL REBIRTH TO EUROPE. It became a movement of Christian armies into strongholds of Spain, Portugal and North Africa, until much of the lost Greek classical learning was recovered.

Aquinas (1225-1274) modified Aristotle's vision and taught that God created everything for man: harmonious universe, coherent home in the image of God. Cosmos was manifestation of God's plan- this belief was the bedrock of social stability. God planned everything in the sky and below on earth, planets, animals, human beings, all in proper places. The hierarchy was man-made. Glory to God! Everything comes

from God, and everything goes back to God. Aquinas is regarded as the greatest theologian. He preferred revelation to reason. He opined that man's goal of life should be union with God and eternal fellowship with Him. This can be achievable through His beatific vision. He gave five reasons for the existence of God. One who experienced salvation through Christ, would be happy. The theological reformation movement occurred after Aquinas.

When pneumonic and bubonic plagues struck Europe and took a toll of one-third of its population, people said the Catholic Church was being punished by God, or perhaps God did not care or did not exist.

[SPORT HAS LARGELY REPLACED RELIGION AS A WEEKLY CEREMONY iN THE WORLD, and Christianity needs to be sensitized, modernized, and Americanized, it is this way that some make fun. The scandal that Jesus was 'a scruffy, unhygienic Jew from Galilee, sorely bereft of both tubs and chocolate chips cookies' must be rectified and the message must be streamlined, updated, translated into mission statements of business schools. 'God is a fine fellow, a fantastic success'. He knows everything, can hire and fire his underlings as the fancy takes him. Religion and politics, in his creation, are beautifully blended. He does not seem to have passed on his success to his immediate family. 'He hangs out with losers, crooks and whores and never did a decent work in his life'. He is a union agitator, demagogically organizing Galilean carpentry and supported, probably socialized medicine, refused to settle down and raise a family. Instead he denounced the rich, was deserted by his companions and tortured and murdered by the imperial state. He warned his comrades that if they were true to his word, they would find themselves in a death row.]

The proselytizing missionary enterprises are contrary to the advice of Jesus. This is worn out by the fact that if you convert a man brought up in another creed, he is inevitably demoralized. Jesus advocated communism, the widening of family with its ties into the great family of mankind under the fatherhood of God, abandoning revenge and punishment, doing good to a hostile antagonist, You are a member of

a society, the neighbor is another member; but unless you love the neighbor, he will not reciprocate. Christ had no synagogue or regular congregation. With his 12 apostles, who left their work, he travelled from place to place. He refused to perform miracles, which according to Rousseau, make people skeptical and which is an obstacle to acceptance of Christianity. He said, 'Get rid of miracles and the whole world will fall at the feet of Jesus Christ.' What is there in making a lame man walk? Bring a man without one leg and make another leg grow instantaneously, that will be a miracle. Jesus regards his mission limited to the house of Israel, according to Matthew when he says his mission is devoted exclusively 'to the lost sheep of the house of Israel'.

Jesus was a gifted healer, orator and. But which of the prophets was he? Peter solved the problem one day when he told "thou art the son of God" and he accepted his destiny as a god by announcing that he (Jesus) would be killed when he goes to Jerusalem. In this frame of mind, he entered Jerusalem, drove out moneylenders and sacrifice- sellers out of the temple in a riot, reviled the priests He was arrested by night in a garden to avoid a popular disturbance. He puts up no resistance. He is taken before the high priest who asked Jesus whether he was son of God. Christ's reply was that they shall see the son of man sitting at the right hand of power. The priest handed him over to the Roman governor. He was silent before the governor who had the right to pardon but on people's pressure the governor ordered release of another prisoner Barabbas. Jesus maintained quiet and was scourged and crucified. Matthew tells that after three days an angel opened the vault of one rich man named Josef who had buried Jesus there. Jesus rose and returned from Jerusalem to Galilee with his disciples and resumed preaching, assuring disciples that he would be with them. Suffice it to say that the other three Gospels also tell stories, including those of Peter, Lazarus.

[A similar story that prevails is that of Abraham's sacrifice of his only son Ismail (as presented in the Testament) which is believed by Jews, and Christians and Muslims alike. The Muslims go a step farther and commemorate (and celebrate) the sacrifice by Abraham of his most precious possession, his only son for the sake of his love for God, as

Eid-ul-Adha. They reason that the sacrifice is symbolic and it is neither atoning nor it is of any propitiatory value. A goat was sacrificed as it came to Abraham through a recurring dream ('Ibrahim for Muslims'), He put the knife in the throat of his son and sacrificed him with his hands.) Confronted with an internal conflict to choose between God and his only son, Abraham put all his trust in God. The moment Ibrahim overcame his attachment, God saved Ismail and sent a male sheep instead. And, that marked the beginning of the tradition of animal sacrifice as Qurbani, surrender to the will of God. The Quran reveals "It is neither meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, it is your piety that reaches Him". (Quran 22.37) One can sacrifice his anger and arrogance, greed and jealousy, lust, obsession and cravings for sensuous pleasures. It is difficult to fathom the minds of Muslim suicide bombing children\youth how they are persuaded to sacrifice their lives for the sake of their 'deen'. Similar was case of Christian warriors who fought in the Crusade in Palestine.]

CHAPTER 3

CATHOLICISM

Christianity grew fast, so developed internal differences among Christians. Despite internal differences the Church remained a unified body till 1054. In spite of efforts made in the Councils of Lyons (1054, 1224) and Florence (1437-38) the churches could not patch up their differences because of the scars of fall of Antioch (1098) and Jerusalem (1100), sacking of Constantinople (1204) and victory of Ottoman Turks (1453) that loomed from time to time in Christian memory.

The crusading spirit of Christianity in the east separated the Roman Catholics from the Eastern Orthodox. The separation was caused by political, linguistic and geographical differences and the cultural divide that existed between the two. On October 31, 1517 monk Martin Luther challenged the Catholic Church; he rejected the church authority, emphasized individual responsibility and denied that only a Catholic priest could provide protection. He attacked the privileges and wealth of Catholic Church and argued that state should protect the church.

The Christian CHURCH has three main divisions:

(A) ROMAN CATHOLIC Church located in Vatican, Rome, dominates Central and Western Europe, Ireland and South America. In the 17th century the Roman Catholic Church was further divided into four units – Baptist, Lutheran, Calvinist and Anglican, each with several denominations.

(B) EASTERN\ORTHODOX Church in Greece, Slavic countries and USSR. The Orthodox Church has world-wide 300 million adherents distributed along the north-eastern Mediterranean coasts, eastern and northern Europe and the Middle East.

(C) PROTESTANT CHURCH dominates northern Europe, England, Scotland and North America. Reforms were made in all the churches- Catholic, Eastern, Orthodox, Protestant. The Developments made by the branches of Christianity are furnished below in brief.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Church is the oldest, numerically the strongest and the most powerful representative Christian church in the world. With rich traditions, worship, dogmas, splendor, strict hierarchy, efficient organization of functionaries, immense power and finances it commands communities, schools, hospitals and social institutions that render enormous good to the entire humanity. However, it is servile to the superior and arrogant towards the subordinates; even so on the positive side it is a spiritual power and has to its credit great progress in history, constitutional law, piety and liturgy, while on its debit side are the great lapses it made in church administration and Inquisitions which were responsible for finding victims and taking their life. Also, it has been discriminatory towards women in matters of conception, abortion and euthanasia. It backed up inaptly many policies of trade, finance, education, superstition, sex, morality, marital laws, and justice. Faith remains its primal motif in tradition, liturgy and theology, and 'Jesus Christ is like a golden thread in the tapestry of church history. Church is fellowship for them who find Christ in themselves. Christ's standard for himself was, 'Let the leader be one who serves others and not one who rules'. The tombs of apostles, Peter and James, and Jesus' message remind us of the inner freedom, generosity, renunciation, property, share in communion and solidarity with community. Rome is the mother of churches.

A collection of four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and Paul's normative letters outlining Christian beliefs and practices was compiled to motivate people to take up the cause of Christianity. The letters collected under the title Acts of Apostle were addressed to I Galatians, II &III Thessalonians, IV & V Corinthians, VI Romans, VII Ephesians, VIII Philippi, IX Colossians, X Philemon, XI Titus, and XII Timothy. Soon after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the Hellenist and Aramaic-speaking communities gathered in Jerusalem where the Hebrews and Hellenists clashed. Stephen was lynched and executed after which the Church gathered around the apostles and scattered to Samaria, Caesarea, Damascus, Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch where they preached the word. Peter admitted gentiles to the church which was not liked by some. According to Elisabeth Schuster, women from Galilee, Jerusalem, and Antioch actively participated in missionary movement. Christian preachers went around Samaria, Caesarea, Damascus, Phoenicia and Antioch. Some of them supported circumcision policy which too was not to the liking of many.

2nd century: Gospels were produced in regional languages to disseminate information about Jesus Christ among the Mediterranean communities. But this had an adverse effect inasmuch as there came up splinter groups, each with its own viewpoint. Montana developed a prophecy movement with both ascetic and ecstatic strands that claimed revelation of his appointment as Messiah till Christ returned. Montana's male followers celebrated mystical rites giving importance to followers of Deity Mithras and pagans. A second group of Docellites agreed that Jesus Christ had appeared temporarily as a man but not as the Son of God. A third group, Elionites who repudiated Paul's statements and Gospels stated that Christ was a human being. The fourth group of Gnostics believed that the physical world was evil and people should enter into the spiritual world. A fifth group of Marconi, a rich ship owner and a disciple of Polycarp, recognized canon consisting of four Gospels, Acts, Romans, Corinthians I and Ii, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippa, Colossian, Timothy I&II, Titus, Peter, John and Revelation. Polycarp was a suspect

in the eye of the authorities. He was arrested and told that he would be freed if he reviled Jesus Christ. He did not and even refused to recant before the Pro-Counsel; he was executed.

The spiritualists promised Gnosis (redemptive knowledge) of the origin of evil to free the divine spark of life from matter. Bishops and theologian Iranaeus (of Lyons) defended the Christian faith of gospels and commandments. The Catholic Church refused to accept speculations and practices and instead laid down regulative norms namely, Baptism, New Testament, and office of Bishop which became a teaching place and enhanced Bishop's power that replaced the charismatic teacher and prophets. Two, the church was hostile to equality of sexes and prevented emancipation of women. However, the Greek Church emphasized the equality of both sexes but denied women's right to hold office and deprived them of an alternative to marriage. The Church created a structure for theology and organization.

3rd century: PLOTINUS was the greatest religious philosopher of his time. St ORIGEN of Alexandria (175-254)'s entire life was 'an unbroken prayer'. The roots of Jesus' Prayer (part of Exodus) were nurturer of monasteries. It drew on a church dogma of Neo-Platonism that binds fallen souls in search of their way to God with the help of Logos (Christ). He found inconsistencies and contradictions in the scripture and understood human history as an educational process obscured by sin, restored the IMAGE of Christ, and presented Christianity as the most perfect religion. Through his Hellenistic approach, he created awareness of CROSS, resurrection of Jesus as INCARNATION and pre-existence of logos as the Son of God. Incarnation promoted conversion of human beings to Christianity. The Hebraic origin of truth of Christianity can be only contemplated, it cannot be seen. While Judaism lays emphasis on teaching and practice of law, Hellenistic Christianity taught more about God and less about Christ's discipleship. The new logo of Christology increasingly forced the Jesus of history in favor of a doctrine and a church dogma of incarnate God. The Christological heresies deviated from the truth of universal Catholic Church. Orthodox Catholicism focused on a true belief and did not question the deep seated institution.

TERTULLION (160-225), known as father of Latin Christianity, observed that when faith is defined it loses its validity. He dismissed the morally reprehensible God of the Old Testament and left the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and John, and letters of Paul stunted. Tertullion and CYPRIAN (d.258) accepted good things from pagan culture, incorporated elements of Greek philosophy in Christian theology, evolved sacramental vocabulary and composed theological works.

4th century: ARIAS, an Alexandrian Presbyter, denied the divinity of the Son (Jesus Christ) and his subordination to the Father, God. The hermits who believed in Christianity devoted their life to God through meditations and ascetic discipline and claimed immediate experience and vision of God. Some gained spiritual experience, some experienced vision, and mystics found images of fire, dark nights of soul etc. Alexandria was the centre of mysticism and PLOTINUS the oldest mystic. ANTHONY (256-356), an Egyptian recluse, set up a community of monks at Mount Colson near the Red Sea. Other spiritualism seekers withdrew to deserts of Syria and Egypt and devoted their life-time to meditation and endured feats (like fasting and standing on one leg) and recited prayer that precipitated hallucinations. In 320 PACHOMIAS (287-346) founded the first Christian monastery at Tebernissa and a community for women by the river Nile. Gradually the monastic life spread to other parts of the Christian world. Constantinople had 300 monastic houses and Simon-Stylite (Pillar) and a Catherine Monastery that stood in seclusion. In 364, Basil the Great (330-379), the Bishop of Cappadocia, founded a community that offered education, medical help and relief to the poor and integrated it with the local church, a model of monastic life for the monks of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

The Roman emperors regarded themselves sacred and chosen by God to rule over their subjects and make them follow the Royal faith. Emperor CONSTANTINE (reign 306-337) was an exception. By the edict of Milan he asked people to show tolerance to all religions and granted Christianity the same freedom as was enjoyed by other religions. He declared himself convert to Christianity. He honored the Bishop of Rome and permitted churches to possess unrestricted lands. Many people were

baptized as Christians. All churches in the Empire, including St Peter's, came under the authority of Rome. His successors built many churches on pagan lands. The Barbarians attacked Rome in 330. Three years afterward in 333 Constantine shifted his capital from Rome to Byzantine (renamed Constantinople). A question was raised whether heretics of African churches need be baptized; the Africans favored baptism but in Rome Bishop Stephen's view, Pope's laying of hand should suffice.

With the expansion of church, several controversies arose about the nature and power of Christ and Trinity that affected the monotheistic character of the Church. (An Alexandrian Presbyter denied the divinity of the Son and his subordination to the Father.)The first Ecumenical Council held at NIECE in 325 concluded that Jesus was both man and God, and the Son was equal man and equal deity. No one was satisfied; moreover it caused division of the church- into Eastern Church and Western Church. Anastasia opposed Arias and Nestorius who separated Jesus Christ's human and divine elements. The Council at CHALDION affirmed the unity of the Church; despite this the stalemate continued across the Christian world. The next Council held at EPHESUS insisted on the unity of the Church and in 449 it supported assertion of theologian Ephysus that Christ had two natures- one, a priori incarnation and the other divine that swallowed up the human nature; thus there was only one nature, that of God. Ever since then this is what is understood by Christology - Jesus Christ has only one nature. Decorative images and narrative and symbolic depictions were introduced into Christian houses of worship, gathering places, cemeteries and catacombs.

5th Century: The ROMAN EMPIRE IN WEST COLLAPSED IN THE 5th CENTURY. The Visigoths under Alaric sacked Rome in 410.Other Barbarians (Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Franks) swarmed across the Empire. In 451 Attila, the Hun, the curse of God invaded the Eastern Rome. He was defeated by the Roman forces at Verdun. Resistance put up by the Bishop of Rome, LEO (450-461) forced Attila to retire from Rome. He (Leo) denounced the decision of the fourth meeting held at Chalcedon in 451 and the Council itself as 'the Synod of Robbers'. The Council endorsed Leo's position that Christ was one person with two

natures. The Coptic Church rejected that decision. (Councils were held at: Niece in 325, Constantinople in 381, Ephesus in 431 and 441, and Chalcedon in 451.) Emperor ROMULUS AUGUSTUS was deposed in 476 and with his deposition the Roman Empire came to its end. By the end of the 5th century, the BISHOP OF ROME HAD BECOME POPE. When the damn on the Rhine burst, the Barbarians crossed the river and entered France and moved on to Spain, Britain and North Africa.

In France St BENEDICT of Mercia (480-547) set up a monastery at Mount Calson and laid down rules for monasteries, prayer and community life of extreme austerity and penance. The rules were framed keeping in view the interests of weak and poor, hospitality of stranger, Abbot's seven prayers, spiritual and disciplined life. The Abbot's seven prayers before worship were- Matins, lauds, prime, Teresa, Notes, Vesper (evening prayer), compliance. The Benedictines established monasteries all over Western Europe.

6th century: POPE COLUMBA (521-547) evangelized Central and West Europe and travelled to Gaul and Germany. AMANDUS (584-6&9) took the message to Basque, Slavs, Northern France, and Netherlands. JUSTINIAN (527-65) retained the semblance of authority of both the Church and the state and thought of himself as the second Constantine. In 559, he kidnapped POPE VIGILIUS (537-556), and compelled him to attend the meeting of the Second Council. In 565, the Lombardi Barbarians invaded Italy and pushed the Byzantines back to sea ports and brought the West under their control.

MEDITERANEAN TO EUROPE: The Western Europe had a unified church and Pope was the only power. When Rome was threatened by Lombard, Gregory (590-606) took over City's civil and military control and evangelized the rest of Europe-Visigoths in Spain, Franks in France, and Pagans in England, Germany, Balkans and Italy. Christianity was evolved from the Mediterranean to Europe. Augustine was appointed the Archbishop of Canterbury.

7th century: In 664 the Celtic monks and Roman Christianity came to terms in the synod of Whitney. St PATRIC of Britain spearheaded mystical

spiritualists who were thirsty for knowledge, ascetic vigor, wanderlust and evangelical zeal. The orthodox tenets of Christian faith preceded original Celtic faith. The Irish libraries had illuminated manuscripts. Bede translated the Bible and wrote the History of English Church. WINFRIED of York (634-709) set up a monastery in Germany, evangelized Bavaria, and some other regions and established monarchy of Fulda, near Frankfurt. POPE JOHN I (r. 640-42), was the first Greek-knowing (among eleven Popes between 640 and 752) who supported Roman traditions and insisted upon Papacy's independence. His successors followed the same policy. However, GREEK influence (regarding customs, placing portraits of saints in churches and veneration of Mary) gained importance and LITANY became more formal. Byzantine procedures were introduced in papal court. Spiritual life, according to St JOHN CLIMACUS (597-649), consisted of 30 steps (ladder of divine ascension); its 7th step was Tears which was both joy and grief.

Between 670 and 718 the Islamic armies besieged Constantinople and began to destroy monasteries. Eastern scholars fled to Rome where their knowledge of Greek philosophy proved invaluable to the Christian scholars.

8th century: The second BENEDICT of Arena (750-821) impressed monks to observe greater discipline and asceticism. Magyars and Vikings assaulted and destroyed monasteries in Western Europe. There was a tussle for power between the Emperor (at Constantinople) and the Pope at Rome. When Charlemagne became Emperor of France (800-814), he encouraged the Benedictine monasteries and made a jurisdictional claim over churches in the expanded Frankish kingdom. The claim was opposed by POPE LEO III (795-816) who accused of misconduct and murder by the French was driven out of office. Charlemagne rescued the beleaguered Pope and restored him to power. This made the Pope dependent of the French. (The Eastern Church was embroiled in politics and dominated the papacy.) The dispute for superiority between the Emperor and Pope continued.

9th century: Portions of Hellenized world were still pagan. The Frankish monk ANSAKAR (801-865) brought Christianity to Denmark

and converted King Kurt to Christianity. Monks CYRIL (826-869) and METHODIUS (818-885) travelled from Thessalonica to Germany and established Orthodox Church in parts of the country. Emperor Michael III sent monks to Moravia where they were received by Bulgarians, Serbs, Croats and Czechs. Disciplined life of monasteries impressed people and gradually nobility began to send their sons and daughters to monastic houses where they learned liturgical practices and cultural activities and devoted their life to God.

10th century: By the 10th century almost entire Europe was converted to Christianity and the spiritual renewal swept across the Western world. In 910 WILLIAM PIUS founded an ideal Monastery for 1000 daughters in Cluny (Burgundy). This influenced other monasteries to come up in Europe. In England the Archbishop Dunstan (909-988) promoted Benedictine monasticism. OSWALD, Bishop of York eliminated abuses from church while many bishops criticized monastic ceremonies and splendor. BRUNO of Cologne founded the Grand Charterhouse, the most austere monastery which remained incomplete. Bernard (1051-1153) described church as an erotic bride and promoted an anti-intellectual version of love. The election of spiritually vitalized Bernard as POPE GREGORY VII (1073-85) reformed the monasteries from the top downward. A more austere monastery run on Benedictine line was founded in 1098. He held annual meetings which impacted the first crusade as also the Church and the state. The Augustinian order, less austere was unique in that it provided facilities of schools and a hospital for leprosy patients. The monasteries attracted wealthy benefactors who gave lavish donations and also reserved prayers for their worldly success and beyond. With money the monasteries bought large estates, became expert in sheep breeding, accounting, finance and administration, and had positive influence but with commercialization the quality of services deteriorated.

THE POPE

The Pope, the head of the Vatican City State and the Holy See, is the power seat of global Catholic Church. Also known as Papa, the Pope played important part in politics of European countries and competed with their emperors to gain loyalty of Church. Popes saw many ups and downs since the institution was created. In 2013, Jorge Mano Bergoglio on election assumed the name Francis and he is the present Pope.

In the fifth century A.D. the noble families of Rome had viewed papacy as a means to rule the city, indulged in violence, and allegedly connived in murder of Popes LEO V (903-4), JOHN X (914-29) and STEPHEN VIII (939-942). POPE JOHN XII (955-64) crowned the German King Otto (936-73) and bestowed on him the imperial title hoping the Emperor would help save papacy from Islamic invasions and also establish the Holy Roman Empire. But when Archbishop Gregory excommunicated the German Emperor under the wrong impression that the Pope was invested with power to depose the emperor, the papacy and the Emperor were set on collision course. The Emperor exiled the Pope in 1085. A papal court backed Pope's claim of supremacy as also his project of church reforms and bureaucracy. Pope GREGORY VII (1033-85) paid greater attention to safeguard church's interests.

POPE INNOCENT III brought major rulers of Europe under his control. He established papal monarchy in Western Europe, and planned CRUSADE to recover the Holy Land of Palestine captured by Muslims. In 1215 he presided over the Fourth Lateran Council that authorized CRUSADES against 'heretics' and TRANSSUBTANTIATION (transformation of wine into blood) in human body through the power of God. The Council also planned to seek control over Jews who, he said, should pay tithe to clergy, wear a distinctive red or yellow piece of cloth, and a hat of a particular color.

Pope Boniface (1294-1303) confronted King Philip of France for the transition 0f power over the French Church. The king used military to arrest the Pope and elect a Frenchman, Clement V as Pope (1305-14).

To create the papacy seat at Avignon, he moved there the College of Avignon which remained there from 1309 to 1377. But all was not quiet. The College of Cardinals elected Urban VI as Italian Pope (1378-89) who returned to Rome and set Franciscans and Brothers of Mercy as observers.

At one time three competitors-Pope of Avignon, Pope of Rome and Pope-at-Large who aspired to be Pope. POPE JOHN XXIII with the aid of Roman Emperor Sigmund (1410-1537) convened the Council of Constance (1410-37) that nominated MARTIN V (1417-31) to replace the tree popes. The restoration of papacy ended the schism. Another Council held at Basil (1413-49) tried to resolve the problem; it was derided as conciliator. This increased Pope's appetite for tithes, tributes and tolls which invited severe criticism of papacy. Roger Borgia (1431-1503) had many wives and fathered many children. By 15th century-end, the election of Nicholas V (1447-55) hastened the advent of Renaissance. After Loyola's reformation, the Jesuits helped the Church of Rome to deter Protestantism, and along with Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustans, and Capuchins evangelized non-Christians in large numbers. Among the successors, Popes PIUS (1558-84), INNOCENT VIII (1492-1503), JULIUS II (1503-13) and LEO (1513-21) were talented but their irreligious conduct marked them for their paganism, nepotism, immorality and Machiavellian politics. The Church remained unreformed which resulted into Lutheran Reformation.

From the history of Western Europe we know that the region was ruled by five major powers namely Spain, France, Britain, Germany and Italy, In addition, there existed many small countries who joined together and created a European Union.

MONASTERIES

The Church of Christ founded by Apostle Peter at Rome had replaced Jerusalem as the centre of Christianity. Fabian, the first Bishop of the Church of Rome (249-50), who was in direct line of Peter, assumed the responsibility of the churches of the area which enhanced his authority immensely. By the third century-end the centralized church dominated

the Mediterranean region and by the next century-end, the persecution of Christians became periodic and lessened. Christians had freedom to build churches. Sacrifice of martyrs was replaced by monastic life.

Several monasteries came up in different countries. The institution of monastery which was popular with Christianity from the very beginning differs from missions. Monasteries teach their in-mates obedience and humility and provide for counsel and sacramental confession, and also imposes on them silence which is the seed of spiritual life and requires restraint, frugality, sacrifice, generosity and celibacy. Those intending to join monastery cannot marry. The goal of life of spiritualists is to attain salvation which calls for submission to divine will and pray to God. They take to communion and communication. A monk who has taken to monastic life cannot abdicate his social responsibility. Hermits lived whatever style of life they liked while common man and woman followed middle path of life. It is wrong to think that monastic life destroys man's life. To the contrary, it helps the monks to control his desires while the common man and woman lead a spiritual life.

To begin at the beginning, John the Baptist, an eminent monk and exponent of theology, had baptized Jesus. St Gregory of Neo-Caesarea (213-270) and Simeon, the abbot of St Mamas' monastery, were wonder workers. Many monks drawn to the deserts of Egypt, Syria and Asia Minor prayed, meditated, practiced spiritualism and endurance feats (such as fasting, standing on one leg that precipitated nightmarish hallucinations). Antony (250-356), an Egyptian secularist set up a community of monks on the coast of Red Sea. His saying which became popular was: IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW GOD, SELL EVERYTHING AND GIVE PROCEEDS TO THE POOR. Other monks also drew to the coast. In 320 Pachomias (287-384) established the first Christian monastery and a separate community of women by the river Nile. (Theologian St Gregory (329-84) asked people not to make distinction between man and woman as there is only one creator of both). Constantinople had at one time as many as 300 monasteries. Simon Styllite (Pillar) lived on Mt Sinai in seclusion while Catherine's monastery stood nearby. In 364 the Bishop of Cappadocia, Basil the Great (330-379) founded a community that

offered education, medical help and relief to the poor and integrated it with monastery's church. In France Martins set up monasteries at Tours, Lyons and Marseilles. Cardioxus founded a monastery in Southern Italy with a new activity – copying manuscripts for preservation. This developed into a commercial activity. St Benedictine of Mercia (480-547) set up a monastery at Mt Casino; he was known as the father of Western monasteries. He framed Benedictine rules for monasteries keeping in view weak and sick, hospitability of strangers and monk's life. He harmonized monk's life in prayer and work with committed life of extreme austerity and penance. He provided lodging houses for men where they took vows and worshipped. The Abbot was spiritual and disciplined and said seven prayers before worship. The Benedictines established monasteries all over Western Europe. (That culture is in vogue even today.) St John (579-648), author of 'Divine Ladder of Ascent', set up a monastery.

The first monastery at Mt Athos was set up in 961. St Gregory of Sinai (1255-1337) brought the Jesus Prayer to the serene Mt Athos and through the prayer devotees developed awareness of the world within and around. The prayer and fasting went well together. The prayer 'Enlighten My Darkness' of John Gregory (1296-1339) was popular. In 14th to 20th centuries a number of monasteries were set up on Slavic lands by Evangelical St Cosmos (1714-79). It was said that obedience to commands of monastic life safeguards human nature from individualism and isolation, while humility protects it from heresy of fanaticism and extremism. [CHURCH FATHERS St. Athanasius (296-373), St Basil (330-79), St Maxims the confessor (580-662), St. Simeon (949-1022), and theologians St John, St Gregory of Sinai (1255-1337), and Ethnic Ascetic (1220-1365) were well known monks.

The Roman emperors Galerius and Constantine showed tolerance for Christianity which made rapid sweep but lost its original zeal and simplicity. A tussle for power grew between the Emperor at Constantinople and the Pope at Rome. In France, when jurisdictional claim on churches in expanded Frankish kingdom was made by Benedictine, it was opposed by Pope Leo III (795-816), he was driven out

of office on charges of misconduct and murder. The beleaguered Pope was rescued and restored to office by Charlemagne and he became Pope's dependant. For the next 14 years the Eastern Church dominated the papacy. In Rome the Noble families viewed papacy as a means to rule the city and indulged in violence and connived in murders of Popes - Leo V (903-4), John X (914-29) and Stephen VIII (939-42). Nevertheless the church continued to settle disputes. Pope Innocent III (1198-106) evolved the principle of subordination of church to state as tensions grew. (Constantinople had at one time as many as 300 monastic houses.)

When the Islamic armies besieged Constantinople between 680 and 718 the Eastern philosophers in search of safety fled to Rome where their knowledge of Greek philosophy proved invaluable. A tussle for power grew between the Emperor at Constantinople and the Pope at Rome. In France, when Charlemagne expanded his rule, Benedictine monasteries made a jurisdictional claim on churches in the expanded Frankish kingdom. This was opposed by Pope Leo III (795-816) who was driven out of office on charges of misconduct and murder. The beleaguered Pope was rescued and restored to office by Charlemagne and became Pope's dependant. The Eastern Church dominated the papacy for the next 14 years. In Rome the Noble families viewed papacy as a means to rule the city and indulged in violence and connived in murders of Popes - Leo V (903-4), John X (914-29) and Stephen VIII (939-42). However, the church continued to settle disputes. From Jerusalem the power had shifted to Rome and then to Constantinople. Pope Innocent III (1198-106) set the principle of subordination of church to state. God ruled in haven, God ordained that Pope's power exceeded the power of any monarch. Some thought the power should be decentralized; it should be in the body of the church. Towards the end of the 14th century, Clement V moved papal court from Rome to Avignon (France). As tensions grew among the rich influential Roman families, Clement V shifted papal court from Rome to Avignon wherefrom it functioned from 1309 to 1378 when Pope Gregory XI (1378-79) brought it back to Rome. In France the French cardinals elected a rival pope Clement VII who had the support of Scotland, Spain and southern Italy. The Council of Pisa (1409) and Council of Constance (1414) undid the schism by electing Martin V as Pope in 1417.

At the Council of Nice the Bishop of Constantinople had set the pattern of two distinct churches- Eastern and Western. The Bishop of the Eastern Church was a dependent of the Emperor. When the Council of Chalcedon (C.E. 451) guaranteed the unity of the church the Orthodox Church started separating from the Roman Church. The Christendom's eastern half continued with its traditions of spirituality, worship and church life. Emperor Justinian I (r. 525-65) was the last Roman emperor to exercise real control over the Eastern Church that allowed minor deviation from orthodox beliefs and traditions. The rigidity, however, reduced state's resistance to face external dangers; consequently two rival centers emerged- Rome under Pope and Constantinople under Patriarch, a subordinate to the eastern power that controlled both the state and the church. The Third and the Fourth Councils of Constantinople (in C.E. 680 and 879) tried to resolve the controversy about the nature and person of God. The Eastern Church emphasized divinity of Jesus at the cost of his humanity.

The Nicene decision that Jesus was both man and God was rejected by the Manophysite. While East venerated images of God (Christ and saints), Rome disapproved of images but Emperor Leo III (680-741) resisted the efforts of iconoclasts and the Eastern Christianity continued worship of icons. Patriarch Plotinus (820-95) condemned them. This deepened further the division in Christianity.

In 1054 the Papacy claimed direct succession from Peter, the supreme church authority. Pope Leo IX excommunicated Patriarch Michael (1043-59) who retaliated by excommunicating the legates of Pope Leo IX (1049-54). The schism left a glimmer of hope but there was no reconciliation; their hostility increased. The position of Constantinople weakened at the time of the Fourth Crusade (1200-04). In 1453 the Christians lost Constantinople. This was a big blow and the East-West break was final. Yet the two are akin and share half their history, honor 7 sacraments and interpret the scripture the same way.

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ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Orthodox Church is well organized and each of its churches has its own head. The Patriarch of Constantinople had primacy but not the weight of the Roman papacy. For Catholics Bible and Pope both are authorities. The Orthodox Christians were guided by Greek theologians and writers such as Gregory of Nice (350-395) and Basil the Great, while the Roman Church settled its differences in seven Church Councils held at Nice I (C.E. 325), Constantinople I (381), Ephesus (431), Chalcedon (451), Constantinople II (553) and III (680), and Nice II (787). (The decisions of the Councils are accepted by the Protestants also.)

Orthodox literally means right beliefs. For Orthodox Christians experience of truth is personal; they focus on practical and personal experience in life and church; for discipline they emphasize on prayer and observe fasting in connection with Lent, Apostles, Dominican, Jesus Christ, Wednesday and Friday. The church can interpret doctrines but not institute them. It did not feel the need for dogmatic pronouncements on matters like purgatory, and immaculate conception (blemish free) and considered dogma as innovations.

The Latin West is more pragmatic and legalistic and expresses itself in the language of local community. Orthodox theology holds that human beings were created in God's image; Adam and Eve enjoyed full communion with God which meant complete freedom and true humanity. Humans are complete when they are united with God. A sin blurs God's image and sets a barrier between God and Humanity. Salvation re-establishes lost communion and repairs the unity of human and divine, which means humans gain divine life but they don't become God. Worship with variety was spiritual and liturgy was the sole source of knowledge and experience that helped Christianity to survive.

Christians in general share the view that Church is the mystical body of Christ and that they are members of one Church. Roman Orthodoxy says 'One can be damned alone but saved only with others.' Consequently, People's conscience is the conscience of the Church. The

Roman Catholic Church is hierarchical and has divine guidance. The Eastern Church grounds its decisions on laity. Eastern Church is headed by Patriarch. Christianity emphasis the corporate nature of the church with ecclesiastical equality and solidarity of members The Eastern Church encourages mystical life more actively. Roman Catholicism holds that Trinity dwells in every Christian soul.

The Latin Church stresses development while the Greek Church stresses continuity. Roman Church exercises teaching through universities (Bologna, Paris), the Eastern Church has Church Fathers. Roman Church reaches its message through Pope. Eastern Church holds that the divine truth is reached through the conscience of the Ecumenical Councils.

The Greek monks of the Eastern Church - Gregory Palamus (1296-1359), the Archbishop of Thessalonica upheld that prophets were knowledgeable; they believed that though it was impossible to know God, who he was or what he does? It is certain that GOD REVEALS HIMSELF IN CREATION AND HUMANITY. Mysticism was revived by Van Rubinsbock (1293-1381) and Garson (1249-1369) who emphasized the inner person rather than his deeds. Augustan Thomas A. Kampin (1380-1481), author of Imitation of God, stressed the need of piety and asceticism. (Catholics regard the Imitation of God as second only to Bible.) Ignatius Loyola and Teresa Avila (1515-82) described stages of mysticism. Modification of Christ's life and death by John of Cross (1542-91) was marked by ecstasy and despair. In Dark Night, he describes, mysticism as union of soul with God through denial of self. Francis de Sale (author of Introduction of Divine Love) and Lutheran Jacob Bohm (1575-1624) influenced George Fox, the founder of Quaker.

In the 20thCentury Orthodox and Roman Catholics have tried to reconcile their differences. The Western Church learned spirituality and devotion from Eastern Church. In 1964 the Vatican appreciated the positive approach of the Eastern Church.

THE RUSSIAN CHURCH

In Russia the Orthodox traditions are either Greek or Russian. The Orthodoxy prevails in Russia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Austria, Romania, Albania, Cypress, U.K., Japan, Korea, Finland, Egypt, Jerusalem, Alaska and Eastern Africa. World-wide there are 225 million Orthodox Christians. Initially the Russian Church was part of Patriarchate of Constantinople but in 1151 when a private church was established, a distinct Russian Orthodox Church grew up, which claimed to be successor of Rome and Constantinople Metropolitan Peter. In 1326 the Orthodox Church moved from Kiev to Moscow where Metropolitan had shifted after Mongol invasions. In 1448, the Russian church became independent of Constantinople and Jones was installed with the title of Metropolitan of Moscow and all Russia. Russian Tsars claimed that they were heirs of Caesars. Moscow was the Third Rome as also the Patriarch of Moscow of the Orthodox Church. (Tsar Nicholas I ordered dissolution of Catholic monasteries.)

The holy figures like that of Sergius of Radonech (1314-92) and Metropolitan Alexis helped the country to withstand years of Tartar oppression and expanded it both spiritually and economically. Sergius encouraged resistance to Magyars and set the Monastery of Holy Trinity. The Cathedral of St Basil in Moscow (built between 1555 and 1560) is known as the best Church of Russia. In 1480 the Mongols who attacked the country for some time past were finally defeated. After this Ivan IV developed a powerful Russian state. In 1540 Metropolitan Macarios convened Church Synods which culminated the Hundred Chapter of Synod of 1551 unifying ceremonies and duties. In the 17th and 18th centuries the Russian Church made huge geographical expansion. In 1686 the Kiev Metropolitan passed its Constantinople control to Moscow. The missionary efforts reached out from Siberia into Alaska then onto California. The Orthodox missionary learned languages and translated hymns. In 1700 on Adrian's death, Peter prevented succession by name and abolished the patriarchate and established a Holy Synod to govern the church which remained till 1917.

In 1917 the Bolsheviks seized power. They considered Church as defender of the old regime and therefore their enemy, they separated Church from State. The Communist government declared freedom of religion and leashed out anti-religious propaganda. Even though the Soviet Union claimed being tolerant to faiths, churches and monasteries were demolished and used as warehouses and recreational centers. In 1922 priests and worshippers were arrested for refusal to hand over the assets of the churches. Stalin wiped out the Orthodox and Lutheran Church and seminaries. In 1927 Metropolitan Sergius accepted the legitimacy of the new government. During World War II relations between the church and state improved. But during 1959 and 1964, Nikita Khrushchev Government adopted a hard line and closed down many churches which were opened in 1988 and in glasnost church and government developed friendly relations. In 2002 Pope Paul II created a Russian Catholic Diocese.

CHAPTER 4

RENAISSANCE

In 1453, the Byzantium art treasures and Greek and Latin manuscripts were in danger of loss because of the Islamic invasions and for safety's sake these were taken to Italian city states where people appreciated arts and architecture, produced goods for export and encouraged business and creative works thrived. Nicholas Machiavelli authored 'Prince' and 'A Manual for Gentlemen', Michelangelo was commissioned to do 'David' for celebrations in Florence, and Leonard de Vinci secured a position in Milan. But Venice where world's biggest ships were built lost its business after the navigators of Spain and Portugal went round and opened new waterways, and Holland and England offered maritime transport at competitive rates. Despite these setbacks Italian craftsmen continued to remain in demand in luxury markets. Renaissance began in Italy and from there it spread all over Europe.

During the Renaissance Important innovations like double entry in books and money minting and several researches in astronomy were made by Martin Luther, Gelili Galileo, Bruno, Calvin and others. Galileo's hypothesis was that earth could not be finite because if it were so location of heaven would be problematic. Moreover, God could not be separate and distinct from creation because creation, order and harmony have to be part of the universe. Such developments disproved the Aristotelian theory about the sun's movement round the earth and were anti-scripture. Also, these hurt the interests of priests who persecuted the astronomers, researchers and scientists. The Vatican banned their books and summoned some of the researchers to appear before Inquisitions. A young, brilliant scientist Bruno who had been in prison for seven years at the hands of Inquisition was burnt alive for his doctrinal research on February 17, 1600, under orders of pope Clement VIII. [Centuries latter

several 'heretics' were commemorated by medallion. Wycliffe who changed the dynamics that would provide economic opportunities for the children of peasants and professionals to become rich and famous was one instance. During Renaissance, COMBINATION OF LITERATURE AND SCIENCE expanded people's intellectual and material world. Literature stressed the value of universal education. The objective of Renaissance was to review the existing culture in the perspective of the cultural legacy of the Greek and Roman civilizations.

In 1521 the publication of Luther's Diet of Worms and the execution of the Bishop of Worcester gave impetus to Bible reading movement and Protestantism. It was impressed that if the church did not put its house in order, reform would have to come from grassroots and it did (come) from Peasants War that broke out. In the 17th century an English civil war was fought for the soul of Protestantism. In Germany some princes had sympathies with Luther's demand of reform. Prince Frederic the Wise arranged for Luther's abduction and gave him safety in Warburg Castle where he translated the Bible. In 1526 the decree of Sprayer of German Emperor Charles V left for individuals to enforce the Draconian anti-Lutheran measure. This strengthened Luther's program, as a result all Christians obtained right to interpret the Bible in their own ways. In 1527 a force of 20000 sent by Emperor Charles V sacked Rome and placed Clement VII under house arrest. In 1529 Islamic armies laid siege to Vienna. The same year a Diet of Speyer was convened to secure a united front against the Ottomans. But conservative princes passed a Resolution and six princes protested against unity; they were called Protestors and their idea was named Protestantism. Elsewhere the conservatives applied repression against others; Zwingli was one of the leaders of Protestantism. It had four strands Anglican, Lutheran, Reformed and Anabaptists. In the 17th century the English civil war broke out. Protestantism today emphasizes religious-political elements and theological importance to catch up with Pentacont. (It has six million adherents.)

CATHOLIC ORDER

Much before the Renaissance set in, the Catholic Church had begun to reform itself. Several Orders were established:

The FRANCISCAN ORDER and Brothers of Mercy were started by FRANCIS OF ASSISSI (1182-1226): Born in a rich business family, Francis motivated by Christ's command to serve the poor rejected luxury, power and glory. He left the house and clad in rough clothes wandered about begging from the rich and giving whatever he got to the poor. 'Freely you receive and freely you give' was his motto. He tended the sick, preached, and cast off devils. Friars and mendicants gathered around him and became his followers. Recognized as Franciscan Order, they were constantly on road. Breaking from the ideal of living apart from sinful world, they showed the excellent Christian way of life by living among sinners. Francis is linked with poor, birds and wild animals. [The POOR CLARE ORDER was established by Francis' friend Clare (1193-1253). The key concern of the two orders was to set up missions. In 1219, Francis travelled to Egypt and sought an audience with the Sultan to stop the crusade but the Sultan declined to witness his charisma. He encouraged reforms in Franciscan and Cistern orders and sent brothers to Hungary, Spain and East. They established houses in Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Western Africa. When Francis passed away, his followers built a massive basilica in Assisi (Italy) which is now a place of pilgrimage. The Franciscan Brothers travelled to Central Asia and India. In the 14th century the Order appointed an archbishop near Peking. From 16th century on the Franciscan friars followed the Spanish and Portuguese conquerors in the New World where the catholic order played a great role in evangelizing non-Christians. They preached Christianity at the centre of the new adherent Jesuits. The Franciscans were known as grey. In 1624 a French Monk Vincent du Paul (1551-1660) set up a congregation of missions at St Lazar. Captured by Barbary pirates, he worked as a slave in Tunis. He evangelized rural areas and helped free slaves. The order was active in teaching and moving sick prisoners to healthy places.

(2) DOMINIC de GUZMAN (1170-1221): established the Dominic Order in 1214; its members were known as Black Friars. Their churches were undecorated and plain, and their living, preaching and celebration of the mass were simple. They raised the universities of Paris, Bologna, Oxford and Cambridge with intellectual guest lecturers like Bonaventure (1221-1274), Duns Scoter (1266-1308), William Ockham (1280-1349), Roger Bacon (1214-1292), and Anselm of Bach, Peter Abelard, Peter Lombard, Albert the Great, and Thomas Aquinas as resident teachers who tried to harmonize the Augustine theology with the Aristotle and Scholastics philosophy.

Pope Pius V initiated reforms in the St Franciscan and Domino orders.

Anselm, Peter Abelard, Thomas Aquinas, Bernard Clairvaux took keen interest in religious affairs. ANSELM (1033-1109), the Archbishop of Canterbury, was known for his ontological arguments about the existence of God: "I don't seek to understand that I may believe but I believe that I may understand: for unless I understand, I will not understand." PETER ABELARD was known for his scholarship and love for his pupil Heliose.

THOMAS AQUINAS: He brought together the Catholic articles of faith and method of reasoning that formed the base of future Catholic theology.

BERNARD CLAIRTAUX: Supporter of crusades and new monastic orders, he set up Knight Hospitals to provide care for sick pilgrims and wounded knights. Knight Templers were founded to defend Jerusalem and to construct castles across Palestine. The Templers were accused of homosexuality and necromancy and were held responsible for the Da Vinci Code myth. It was later suppressed in 1322 by Philip IV.

Stianizing Baltic region and Russia, and enriched the medieval life in West Europe. The Teutonic Church prayed for the good of society and their monasteries were centers of scholarship.

(4) NEW HOLINESS: known as Brotherhood, the Order of New Holiness was set up in the 14th century to teach Bible and holy living for the common man in the Lowly Countries. Thomas A. Kempin (1380-1471), who is well known for his devotional and spiritual work, IMITATION OF CHRIST, is considered second only to the Bible. He joined the group. By Medieval times men grew suspicious of monastic morality and power.

HUMANISM

After the fugitive Christians brought cultural treasures, including Greek MSS, from Byzantium to 'cities of Italy', learning was revived and Humanism replaced scholasticism. This deprived the church leaders of monopoly of learning. People desirous of spiritual growth thought they could achieve the goal by reading the Holy Bible. But the Book was scarce. The advent of printing brought the Bible within the reach of people. It also hastened renaissance and Protestantism. Valdes, a rich merchant of Lyons embarked on reforming ministry on Bible reading, particularly spiritual injunctions on poverty. The Catholic beliefs and practices faced moral and intellectual tumult. While the senior members of diocese were absent from church, the local clergy were poor. Jerome's Bible displaced the older versions in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts. But interpolations made knowingly or unknowingly posed a problem to the authenticity of the Bible. Centuries back Peter Abelard had pointed out to the four trends of interpretation – literal, allegorical, topological and analogical. In 1522 the Bible reading movement allied itself with Protestant Reformation.

ITALY: Interest in learning was stimulated in Italy. The humanists challenged the medieval view of God-centered universe, nature of church, source and authority of papacy councils and secular princes, and embraced the Greco-Roman value –man is the measure of all things. The movement reached the intellectual and artistic elites but barely affected masses. Educated people studied literature, scrutinized church dogma and practices, and condemned corruption and traditions. The leaders of the movement included Dutch Desiderious Erasmus (1466-

1536), Englishmen, Sir Thomas More (1487-1535) and John Colet (1461-1570), Johann Richlew (1455-1522) and Jacqes de Fernes (1455-1536). Erasmus was of the view that true religion was a matter of traditions, not of ceremonies and rituals. This was the echo of coming reformation.

HOLLAND: In early 17th century, Bible reading became popular and it developed into a movement. It allied itself with Protestant Reformation for whom New Testament was the fountainhead of Christianity. Questions about its textual integrity and philological reliability were raised. In their selfish interest, the popes had allowed the situation to drift. In 14th century popes had dominated hierarchical role in Roman Catholicism. Their claim of supremacy was backed by a papal court and their project of Church reforms increased the power of the Church as well as of bureaucracy. Pope Gregory was deeply interested in safeguarding the Church. Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) who reached the zenith of papal power established papal monarchy in Western Europe and brought major rulers of Europe under his control. He made up his mind to evict the Muslims from the Holy Land who had forcibly occupied it. The Pope planned a series of crusades and in 1215 he called the Fourth Lateran Council that authorized CRUSADE AGAINST HERETICS and pronounced trans- substantiation of blood and wine into body through the power of God. (He also planned to seek control over Jews: they should pay tithe to the clergy, wear a distinctive piece of red or yellow cloth and wear a hat of a particular color.)

For over one thousand years (from fourth to fourteenth century) Christendom had played a major role in Europe's political life; kings and people recognized the authority of the Church. By mid 15th century, things started taking a turn. The Church because of its corrupt practices lost its hold and people asked for reforms. Nationalism, political economy and ecclesiastical abuses also called for reforms. The result was Protestantism - a movement of protests against the papacy. The Church began to reform in the 12th century. Pope Pius V initiated reforms in the Franciscan and Cistern orders.

Priests indulged in corrupt practices such as indulgences (paying fee

for reducing time in purgatory), idolatry, rejection of claims of finality of Bible – God speaks to people through Bible every word of which was dictated by God and that it had no historical or scientific flaw or inaccuracy. For Protestants Bible was ultimate and living word of God in the sense that human beings might find new life in fellowship with the divine. But it should not be ignored that God's word can be misconstrued, or else the danger is that Christians might reach or derive different truths. When they saw Popes living in splendor and priests indulging in corrupt practices, it hurt them. Also, they lost reverence for relics and saints, and observed that it was sheer idolatry. During the next two centuries, Christendom became a realm of war and disorder prevailed but even then the church took no action to remove laity's grievances. The reform seekers insisted that an individual was important to God, the intercession of saints and priests was not required and veneration of relics and saints was contrary to the teachings of Bible. The Protesters refuted the need of Pope for ordaining the saints and the worship of relics of saints and shrines.

PILGRIMS: The Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians went customarily, as a religious duty, on pilgrimages to places in Palestine. But during the period of crusades, these were curtailed. But when in the mid-19th century a cross was found in Jerusalem, pilgrimages again became popular; visitors to Bethlehem and Nazareth packed the hatchery and the popularity of saints and shrines also increased. In 1876 the Church of Le Lord in France was dedicated after St Bernadette received a vision of Virgin Mary. In 1917, Virgin Mary is said to have visited St Fatima in Portugal where she entrusted three children with three secrets which came out true. In 1974, 15 people had a vision of St Mary with Joseph in a village chapel in Knock in Ireland. St James at Santiago da Compost and relics of martyr St Fox in Spain, tomb of stigmatic St Padre Pisa, shrine of St Francis of Assisi and shroud of Jesus in Turin in Italy, an Icon of Our Lady painted by St Luke in Poland and Canterbury in England attracted pilgrims; for intercession they went to Abbeys in Montesserat in France and Trier in Germany.

Missionaries tried to reach and teach Pagans about Christianity.

In Britain they established the Society for Promotion of Christianity which sent out missionaries. (Missionary Jonathan Edward and Carey's Baptist Missionary Society went to North America.) The Netherlands Missionary Society was set up by the Dutch East Indies. Robert Morison (1782-1834) established an American Mission in 1807 in China where in 1842 the treaty of Nanking opened the gate for foreigners in China. In 1860 China and France signed a convention of toleration. In 1865, South Korea had its first mission. In 1900 there was Boxer Rebellion which failed. Thereafter the missions expanded and Christianity spread fast. The missionaries evolved public relations tactics; for instance, in China Hudson Taylor (1832-1908) spoke to his family members in Chinese and wore Chinese dress which the Chinese liked.

For Whiteman it was no more an age of heroic movement. Though Egypt had the Coptic Church and Ethiopia had Christian churches but it did not take Islam long to gain predominance in Africa and by the beginning of the 19th century, few Roman Catholic missions were left in those parts of Africa where they once dominated. However, West and South Africa had a different story. In 1830s - 40s, European missionaries took Christianity to West Africa and In South Africa many missions were launched from Cape of Good Hope; explorer David Livingstone blazed trails and Holy Ghost (1848), White Fathers (1868) and Roman Catholic missions were active. But after 1880, Europeans scrambled for power and their interests gained political and economic predominance. In the 19th century Christian missions focused on Latin America where the USA had helped their independence movements against colonists and they welcome US missionaries. The US missions went all over the Pacific Islands and established churches at places.

In 1788 Christianity made entry in Australia and New Zealand which were being used by Britain as penal colonies. (James Cook had explored these in 1770s.) Henry Martin went to India as a chaplain and he was followed by Russian, Armenian and German missionaries. But at times the National Christians suffered reprisals from their neighbors. The converts not only helped in spreading Christianity but also in spreading Western culture and habits. (YMCA was harnessed as a successful P.R.

medium.) The missionaries translated Bible in vernaculars. 'Each one Teach one proved successful'. Efforts of colonial powers to replace native traditional life by western practices encouraged western lifestyles. However, on the plus side THE MISSIONARIES PROMOTED LITERACY AND OPENED NEW HOSPITALS.

Protestant divisions reflected on their national origins and theologies and found that God's redeeming words, doctrinal or institutional, were not uniform and mended their differences by acknowledging that their perspective is fraught with danger. They resorted to ecumenical movement. Protestant leaders faced odd situations boldly. Once when a Christian leader was asked what would he do if he was excommunicated, his reply was that he would 'stand under sky'. Protestantism now dominates Northern Europe, England, Scotland and North America.

The Turkish army after occupying much of the north-west moved southward. As already mentioned Martin Luther's Diet of Worms (1525) gave birth to Protestantism. (In 1555 execution of Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, angered people and brought reformation movement: creativity, tension, debates, corrections and renewal of Christian faith.) In 1529 siege of Vienna called for an urgent action by Christians. A Second Diet of Spears was convened to secure a united front against the Ottomans. But six conservative princes passed a resolution of protests. The opponents of repression included Zwingli (Swiss), John Calvin (Geneva), and Huss (Bohemia). By 1560s a strand of protestants appeared- Anglican, Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptists. In 17th century England had a civil war for the soul of Protestantism. The humanists asked for return to the New Testament which was the fountain head of Christianity.

The religious orders have continued to spearhead the missionary work. By 1950 the number of missions and their influence started dwindling though some New Orders were established. The work of Missionaries of Charities Mother Teresa of India to the sick, destitute and the dying has been appreciated.. However, it has become clear that monasticism cannot sustain its position by its oddities like celibacy,

projecting poverty as an ideal while scandals of homosexuality, child abuse, same- sex marriage prick conscience of people, even of celebrities like pope.

A Pew Research 'Religion and Public Life Project' states that there are 2.18 billion Christians around the world that represent nearly a third of the estimated 2010 global population of 6.9 billion. Geographically, Christians are wide spread and far flung and no single continent or region can indisputably claim to be the global center of Christians. A century ago, about two-thirds of Christians lived in Europe where the bulk of Christians had been for a millennium. "Today (2006), only about a quarter of all Christians live in Europe.)." About 37% are in the Americas, about 24% in sub-Sahara Africa and 13% in Asia and the Pacific. During the last 100 years THE NUMBER OF CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD HAS NEARLY QUADRIPLED from around 600 million in 1910 to more than 2 billion in 2010. (The world's population estimated at 1.8 billion in 1910 to 6.9 billion in 2010 or they make up 32 % as compared to 35% a century ago. Europe and Americas are home to 63% of Christians in the world. The share of the Christian population has increased to 63%. The share in Asia- Pacific region has risen from 7% to 9%. 'Christianity today- unlike a century ago is truly a global faith.' About 50% of world's Christian population is Catholic, 37% Protestants and 12% world- wide. The remaining 1% is made up by Mormons and Jehovas Witnesses. Christians are the largest religious group followed by Muslims at 25% and Hindus is the third largest group in the world. The largest number of Christians live in USA, Brazil and Mexico in Americas, in Russia and Germany in Europe, the Philippines and China in Asia, and Nigeria, Congo and Ethiopia in sub Sahara. About 90% Christians live in Christian majority countries.

CHAPTER 5

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

The Christian Ethics begins with the Ten Commandments, namely:

Thou shalt worship no other God.

Thou shall make no other god.

Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened leaves.

Thou shalt work six days.

Thou shalt observe the weekly feast.

Thy male children shall appear before the

Lord thrice a year.

Thou shalt not offer the blood of sacrifice with leaven.

Thou shall not leave till the morning the sacrifice of Passover feast.

Thou shall bring the first fruit of thy land to the home of Lord.

All Christians believe in the scripture (Holy Bible) and try to live pure life as was preached by the church. The preaching mostly supernatural is contrary to the pull of human instincts. The Church guides members to observe sacraments that parallel great moments in life: birth, confirmation, matrimony and death. At Birth God's special grace is planted in the soul which brings the infant in existence. Confirmation takes place when the child reaches the age of reason and needs strength for mature reflection to act. He is baptized, matrimony joins two persons and they dedicate to each other. The last sacrament is the sacrament of the sick closing earthly life and preparing the soul for its last passage. Besides, there are minor (important sacraments) -

CONFESSION (or reconciliation) of one's sin to God in the presence of a priest, repentance to resolve the sin that is forgiven, and the MASS (or Eucharist - the re-enactment of Christ's last supper when Christ gave his disciples bread and wine-the blood he shed for them). Mass provides an actual transformation of spiritual energy from God to human soul. The elements offer spiritual nourishment. For the host and chalice, bread and wine substantiate Christ's body and blood. The Eucharist delivers God's grace and the exercise strengthens the bond.

THE REAL CRUSADE

In his closing commission, Jesus told his disciples, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of Father and Son and Holy Spirit, teach them to observe all that I have commanded you, and don't fear I am always with you to the close of the age." The assurance is bound to strengthen the preacher in his missionary work and belief in faith. Equipped with this wherewithal, the huge Church (organization)and its enormous following with evangelical zeal and talk of Jesus' miracles convince people to accept and admire Christian teachings. From Rome the Gospels reached Europe, Africa and Asia and the unusual birth, resurrection, and ascension were accepted. Theology added glamour to faith.

The Roman Catholic Church is both teaching authority and sacramental agent while the Orthodox Church signifies right belief and right worship that appeal to human senses; Icons add a sense of beauty and glory. The object of the faith with Pope as the earthly head is to teach believers how to conduct their life to secure salvation in the next world. Church represents Christ and pope's decisions in matters of religion and ethics are final.

The Bible is for all. There is one more sacrament –the Sacrament of Holy Order for Bishops and Institution of Priests and Deacons which sharpens and influences liturgical style and interpretation. As the Christians do not strictly follow the sacraments, splits occur in schools and marriages that create class distinctions.

ICON

The liturgy of the church - decorative images, narrative and symbolic depictions - reflect splendor and grandeur in Christian houses of worship, gathering places, cemeteries and catacombs. The image worship by Christians was opposed by Jews and Pagans. (Christians of formative centuries were not open to icons.) The Church of Constantinople led by St. Gregory stressed on liturgy and personal prayer and described art as second creation. This echoed in Basil the Great (330-74). The various Councils determined the role and theological importance of icons established in divine incarnations. An icon represented the spirit of Father God. Since 787 sacred and portable icons provided visible public affirmation of divine incarnation in wood, frescoes, miniatures, metals and vessels. What is true of icons is as well true of relics of saints. Spiritual way is not disconnected from created and material world. The same truth is underlined in liturgy with the use of bread, wine, oil, wheat, flowers and wood. The body, soul and all created matter is sanctified. The family learns the meaning and depth of icon through rituals, prayer, painting and music. (This is aesthetic mysticism.)Icons disclose the wor ld view of the present and show how life is improved by sacredness and beauty of the divine life. Every day events and ordinary occurrences become significant. In liturgy elation becomes mystical encounter - theophany of divine energies.

The churches and icons have their own architecture. Dome, Basilica and Apse took shape in the fourth century. Dome is reserved for the image of Christ-symbolic of heavenly kingdom. Church proper or nave is filled with images of saints, martyrs, monks and married people. The apse is devoted to mother of God. The chapel is a small refuge from the daily deluge of problems to mediate on the wonders of God who loves us as we are.Liturgy, chanted in hymns, is celebrated by all in joy. Here are some rudiments of the Christian faith.

BELIIEFS:

ONE GOD-Father and Creator

JESUS-CHRIST with Father Incarnate of the Holy Spirit, crucified, died, buried, rose.

ASCENSION, Jesus, son of God set on His right hand side.

THE HOLY SPIRIT-Giver of life

ONE BAPTISM for forgiveness of sins

GENERAL RESURRECTION of the dead

CHURCH is the body of Christ.

SACRAMENTS restore intimacy of the world, people and God; nothing is profane.

WORSHIP includes hearing the word and liturgical response.

TRINITY is "three persons in one God".

PETER was appointed by Jesus Christ as the leader of the flock.

We are in living fellowship with SAINTS.

FUNDAMENTALS

Inspired by God, the BIBLE is inerrant,

The VIRGIN BIRTH of Christ,

DEATH of CHRIST is atonement for sin.

RESURRECTION OF JESUS

MIRACLES OF Christ are a historic reality.

CALENDER OF EVENTS:

Christians celebrate annually events in Christ's life and anniversaries in Church's life. The liturgical or Christian year is the cycle of liturgical seasons which reflect in several ways e.g. decoration, vestments, Mass (Bible reading), ceremonial topics. The dates of festivals vary between Western Roman Catholic, Anglican and other Protestant churches, and

the Eastern Orthodox churches. The main festivals are: Easter, Lent, and Christmas. (November 1 and 2 are All Saints and All Souls Days.) EASTER: (The final week is Holy Week. Good Friday commemorates death of Jesus. CHRISTMAS: advent of second coming of Christ.

PRAYER

For theists, God is the cause of the universe and human life as well of their destiny and end. God has neither beginning nor end; the power of death does not prevail over Him. Human beings have ever nourished a hope of eternity for their own selves. The eschatological hope is that the power of death will not prevail against them. When Gods' people led by Abraham went in the desert in response to a call that promised fuller life, hope rose for an earthly kingdom where justice, prosperity, peace, and spiritual life would be dispensed by an ideal ruler and his prayer will be heard and his make-belief divine favor will be ushered in. Such was the expectation of Radical Judaism which ante-dates Christ; the experiences of the two were different.(Similar were the experiences of Christianity at the time of its origin and during Crusades and Middle Ages and under the Ottoman rule when they were full of imagery and mythology.) Jesus himself had believed that the end of age was imminent, as noted by Paul. In the 19th century scholars tried to rationalize and modernize the teachings of the New Testament. But the modern man is not convinced of Christianity's eschatological view of heaven and hell nor does he nourish the hope that this world would become more and more a showpiece of God's people. The Gospels, except John' say that the breakthrough had arrived and was on. Did the change occur with Jesus Christ? Perhaps, Gospels implicitly meant so. It was golden age when God revealed Himself and He withdrew Himself in Dark Age. The authority of Church is grounded on the testimony of Apostles. St Simeon inspired by divine spirit was possessed by spirit in his movements.

When there is danger to life or temptation overpowers man or evil threatens life, the faithful ask for the divine grace and pray Him:

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts, as we have forgotten our debts.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from heaven. Amen.

What is going on inside and around and its purpose is self-purification, whereas liturgy, which is the source and part of prayer and mirror of inner life, provides regular expression and rhythmical pattern for adoration and Divinity's intercession. The prayer may be scriptural (spiritual) or private or public purposes. Scriptural prayer may be said in public, liturgy, while hearing divine words, praising and thanking God, or in confessing sin and asking for His grace. A private prayer by an individual is ad hoc and informal. Prayer is said also in the form of petition, intercession, thanksgiving, confession, meditation, contemplation or saint-poetry.

What do we need prayer for? Does not the omnipresent God know his devotee's desires? Why can't the individual will and divine will align and secure the motive of the prayer? For a Christian, Jesus' birth, suffering, passion and rise to eternal life are a matter of faith. All religions prescribe good conduct for their adherents and offer them place in heaven for good conduct or place in hell for sin. For man of good conduct eternal life begins and extends beyond death. The resurrection of Jesus was not complete for him within the span of an earthly existence. Man does not realize his potentialities in a lifetime. What is true for an individual may be true for the community as well.

An evolutionary process of the world includes a sudden critical beginning as well as its steady, uniform development that transforms the existing affairs and marks a new mode of glory in the beginning and while transcending through current utopias. Christianity believes that the glory is hidden in God who manifests through creation (Genesis).

Often prayer and fasting go together. Fasting implies a sense of freedom, not of wanting but of wanting less and recognizing wants of others. The purpose of fasting is not to harm the body which is the temple of God. Through fasting we absorb pain and transform it into

hope. One who fasts and prays may not accumulate wealth to engender poverty.

Since the effects of prayer cannot be tested, Science does not believe in the efficacy of prayer. According to the modern man control over the material world can be secured only through science and a prayer said to solicit benefits from some supernatural power is nothing but the last refuge of a weak man when all other avenues are closed to him. They think poorly of priests as agents of manipulation who concoct prayers with magical ideas and egotistical desires; this is nothing but superstition. Despite the awareness about science and technology, prayer for a secular person or society remains deep in his heart.

Sometime in difficulty man seeks divine INTERCESSION through prayer e.g. for peace or for healing of illness of others. Moreover, man's action is personal and not magical. So why call for intercession in a self regulating world?

THANKSGIVING and CONFESSION define and deepen man's relation with God and dedication to the Holy Spirit in which man dwells on a truth or affirmation that sinks in and becomes part of him. For a devotee, rosary is a popular medium of meditation. The mysteries of Gospels and theology are also subjects of meditation that aims at immersion in faith and religion to shape people's life and thinking and is a process of sanctification. While meditation uses words and ideas, contemplation is silence before God; a full prayer, a foretaste of His immediate presence.

Is prayer to God a shortcut to toil and effort? Is it genuine or false? God alone understands whether the prayer is coming from heart or is false. Should God be treated as imminent and transcendental? Our understanding of prayer would change according to how we treat Him. Prayer will not influence the divine will to meet our desired objective; our will may bend to God's will. May be hindrances are removed by prayer which serves the purpose of his creature. Thus prayer will be not only our address to God but also His prayer in us. Prayer is therefore a communion between God and the finite agents and there is nothing magical or egotistical that could be a dynamic transforming force.

People had faith in church but when the prayers did not fructify, their faith began eroding.

GRECO-ROMAN ETHICS

Christian Ethics is based on Greek philosophy and Roman political and economic systems. Truth, a Greek concept has no gradation; there is neither superior nor inferior truth. Only missionaries and moralists assert that their truth is superior. Secondly truth relates either to a fact or value. The truth of a fact can be tested; the truth of a value is verifiable. How about Crusade, a Greco-Roman concept? A crusader does not urge others to adopt his moral values whether they relate to human conduct (action) or culture (aesthetics, art, music, dance, film) or to that which is neither moral nor unethical. Ethics refers to conduct and prescribes norm and is normative; it may be right or wrong. What is the ethics of acts like abortion, disobedience, capital punishment, euthanasia that concern with flaws in an individual's biological system? This is discussed in historical perspective elsewhere.

Actions and motives of people are judged by their moral values. While for Socrates truth was absolute, for Aristotle, a man's good deeds made his character good and his act determined by divine perception (as) moral. For Sophists truth was subservient to power; people in authority wanting to be true identified pleasure with good. Also, good and bad are a matter of preference but rules of ethics are not arbitrary. For nature, nothing is good or bad. Ethics of equanimity does not permit change. History, for example: why did a myth, custom, edict or revelation happen? In a war (BCE 431 - BCE 404), Athens was defeated by Sparta and politician Pericles overthrew Athens. Spartans set up a small group of priests to rule over Athens. The concept of CRUSADE WAS SEEDED IN WAR. Christianity believes that a man acts in accordance with Divine will and finds fault with actions of priests. The Christian ethical norms were propounded by Roman authorities and St Augustine.

Lead good life, all religions and societies say. What is a good life? Are enjoyment and happiness good life? These are associated with sensuous pleasure or intellectual attainment? A pleasure does not last long. Look

around –you will observe that for some, life is miserable and unfair, filled with pain it ends in death. Some consider eternal life good and supreme but it can't be secured in this world. To obtain eternal life and eternal happiness one must live his life in a right way. We seek eternal peace which is the highest happiness. Being truthful makes a man happy. Thought of God makes man happy. Happiness is found in the vision of God when everything is done in pursuit of God. Man may desire eternity of life but death is the end of life. Desires are demons that fill mankind with dread. Christ alone can save us from misery in life. Can we see God?

The Old Testament tends to find human beings flawed and man's existence as ethno-centric and evil. According to Aristotle, the prime mover set the heavens in perfect, eternal and circular order and whatever happened in the world was inevitable. Christians believed in God and argued that for the maintenance of the order, His direct intervention was necessary. The Sun and Moon rise and set, and stars circle round the earth in eight crystalline spheres made of ether and friction and influence the earth; signs in heavens are interpreted by astrology. In comparison to earth where everything meets its end, heavenly spheres were perfect and incompatible. There was neither virtue nor vice. These concepts developed in Bible. In medieval times Aquinas adopted Aristotle's vision of God who created everything on earth and made the world harmonious, man was created in the image of God. Everything on earth is manifestation of God. Their belief was the bedrock of social stability. Every member had a designated place in society.

Though Christianity began in the Middle-East North Africa, today that region has only 4% Christians. Indonesia, a Muslim majority country is home to more Christians than all 20 countries in the Middle East-North Africa region. Nigeria has more than twice as many Protestants as Germany, the birth place of the Protestant reformation. Brazil has more than twice Catholics as Italy. (Information culled out from material on Global Christianity supplied by the American Center Library. Thanks for help to Supratim Chatterjee of the Library.)

CHAPTER 6

PROTESTANTISM

In mid-14th century, an attack of plague took a large toll of people. They were frustrated with the priests that they could not ward off the calamity. Renaissance expanded people's horizon and led to the discovery of classical learning of poetry, history and philosophy. The Humanists were not against Church and gave people a world view. For the worldly-wise, knowledge became a means of power and wealth. The Roman Catholic Church enriched itself by devising privileges. The Popes engaged in political intrigues and the priesthood lived in luxury as did the rulers. The priests were empowered to cast a soul in hell and were feared. They could indict an entity or land which meant no sacrament or service and damnation of man! People were angry, protested, expressed dissent, criticized the church dogma and rebelled against the priesthood. They were called protesters. The protesters were treated as 'more serious than homosexuality, adultery or treason', and in response the Church charged the dissenters of heresy. (Heresy meant disagreeing from church dogma.) The church authorities thought that if they could prevail on a heretic to recant, the people would refrain from criticizing the church. They persecuted the dissenters and tried that they recant but the Protestants did not; also they could not be silenced.

The goods and works that the fugitives had brought to Italian cities were creative and were appreciated; the goods were produced for exports and artists, architects and builders and writers were pushed forward. This brought Renaissance nearer. Nicholas Machiavelli authored 'Prince', and 'Michelangelo on commission created (1528) 'David' as part of celebrations of catholic and Leonardo la Vinci secured a position in Milan which provided scope for talents. However, Venice lost much of its business of building of large ships, as navigators of Spain and Portugal

opened new waterways and travelled round the world. They had to compete with Holland and England, though Italian craftsmen continued to be in demand in luxury markets. Ushered in these circumstances, Renaissance brought all round improvements. From Italy Renaissance moved all over Europe. Innovations like double entry in account books and money minting were innovated. Great researches were made in astronomy.

After 1500 ACE the Protestant movement, begun in Italy, spread out fast. In Germany Protestantism began with Martin Luther, Galileo, Bruno, Calvin and others. Their approach clashed with the Aristotle's theory that the sun constantly moves around earth. This affected the interests of powerful priests who persecuted astronomers and the Vatican barred their books. Some of the researchers were brought to appear before Inquisition. (The central theme of Renaissance was to interpret culture in the perspective of Greek and Roman civilizations. Until 14th century Italy was a patchwork of city states consolidated into political units – kingdoms of Naples and Sicily, papal- states, and city states of Florence, Venice and Milan. In much the same way, Germany consisted of a myriad of 30 states.) Disputes had arisen between Pope Boniface (1294 -1301) and King Philip of France over jurisdictional control over Church in France. Exercising his military power, the King elected one clement V as a new pope. Also, he created a new seat of papacy that functioned until the College of Cardinals elected an Italian as pope Urban II who returned to Rome. Thus at one time there were three popes of Avignon and Rome and pope at large. A council of Constance convened by Pope John XXXIII with the assistance of Edmund Sigmund elected Martin as pope who replaced the three popes and papacy and thus ended the schism. Sadly the self assurance had an adverse effect. This increased pope's appetite for taxes, tolls and tithes. Pope Borgia and Pope Alexander came under severe criticism. The successor popes were corrupt and immoral. These abuses led to Protestant revolution which led to progress in socio-cultural and political matters and saw significant developments in science.

Researches in science brought recognition to scientists and

realization of importance of science. In 1609, Capler published his deeply religious and theistic work 'New Theology'. It was realized that laws of science transcended official dogmas and unified mankind. Rise of science and technology made rapid changes in knowledge. Galileo hypothesized that earth was not finite, as were it otherwise location of heaven would be a problem. God did not separate and make it distinct it from creation, order and harmony, as otherwise he had to be part of the universe. For their courage against dogmas, scientists had to suffer. Soon after Cupertino's death, Bruno, a brilliant young scientist after undergoing seven years imprisonment by Inquisition for his doctrinal research was burned alive on February 17, 1600 under the order of Pope Clement VII. (Later several heretics were commemorated by medallion. Wycliffe changed the dynamics and opened economic opportunities for the poor. The sons of peasants\ carpenters could become rich and famous Combination of science and literature expanded intellectual and material universe to cope with changes. Literature also stressed value of universal education. The thoughts of Bacon and Dante gave it a push.

In England the Norman kings from William the Conqueror to Henry II attempted to wrest control but failed because of opposition of Thomas Beckett who had to pay with his life. The king was suspected of some foul and when asked, he did penitence and brought the Church of England of British Crown. (Beckett was canonized.) When Henry VIII formed Anglicanism, the congregations branched off as Puritans. (In 1580 Calvin set up another church. In 1600s, Wesley formed the Baptist Church.)

In Europe remarkable developments were taking place in religion and science. On the one hand, the Church faced opposition from Martin Luther on the other astronomers and scientists (led by Cupertino and Galileo) asserted that there was no hell or heaven, nor was there any difference between corruptible gods and men. In 1501, when a superstar and a star exploded and lit up the sky for two years, theological doctrines could not explain the phenomenon; theology was of no avail. Astronomer Galileo saw spots in the sun through a telescope devised by him. The challenge posed for the church could no longer be ignored as it was against Church's theory of heliocentric earth. The Roman Catholics

emphasized that scriptures could not be contradicted and placed Galileo under house arrest. The deists who were skeptical of the church doubted the Bible and questioned the church authority. (They fought amongst themselves also.) They mocked that a divinity might have created the world but after creation he did not care about humanity. Atheists denied divinity. This was the background in which modern ethical movements were started by Butler, Hume, Kant and J.S. Mill. It was recognized that conduct depends on acting according to commands and prohibitions. Even so the money power governed the world.

The Ten Commandments (mentioned in the beginning of the Chapter) and Biblical accounts and Catholicism clashed with scientific findings. The contents of the Holy Bible may be interpreted variously – the interpretation could be literal, allegorical, moral, or spiritual. Nicholas A. Lysa made literal interpretation of events, Origen stressed on personal beliefs. The moral interpretation calls for doing what man was expected to do while the spiritual interpretation required how one should do. The literal interpretation moulded Martin Luther's approach. As the print media developed, it brought with it greater changes. (In the 15th century, Johan Gutenberg printed Bible in large numbers.)

Pope Paul IX (1846-78) responding to the problems of industrial age, approved of modernism, republicanism, liberalism, socialism and nationalism. The Syllabus of Errors issued by Pope Paul damaged his credibility. He introduced the dogma that Mary was born free of original sin. In the first Vatican Council in 1869-70, the Pope claimed entire Diocese in his jurisdiction. In 1870, the revolutionaries put the Papal estates to end and the Pope became a prisoner of the Vatican. The new Pope Leo XIII (1878-1906) led by the cardinals defended working rights of people and preached a just economic system based on Christian values. He revived the theology of Thomas Aquinas and tried to bring papacy to terms with the modern world.

In Britain Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-90) who mistrusted modern theologians mitigated anti-Catholicism. Pope Benedict XI who tried to prevent World War was shut out by the victors from their

discussions. Pope Pius XI's effort to prevent World War II failed. He did not recognize the dangers of fascism in Italy and Germany. In 1929 he reached an agreement but failed to stabilize the Vatican City as an independent state. Pope John XIII observed, "Truth calls for the elimination of every trace of sacred discrimination and consequent recognition of inviolable principle that all states are by nature equal to dignities." He spirited a new life and in 1963 addressed an encyclical to all and the Second Vatican Council (1962-66) tried to upgrade the churches, modernize the liturgy structure, celebrate the mass in vernacular and reduce emphasis on saints and fasts. The Council reduced tension between Rome and Protestant churches.

Protestantism broke off from Catholicism because of differences on understanding of nationalism, economy, renaissance, ecclesiastical abuses. However, the basic cause of differences between them was religion that funneled through Luther's 95-Theses, the Diet of Worms, Calvin, King Henry VIII, Peace of Augsburg. For Luther faith was personal as he said, 'everyone should do his own loving as he will have to do his own dying.' Such disinterestedness had to be discarded for securing that which enveloped divine love.

The Bible alone is the religion of Protestants' but not in the sense Quran is the text book of Islam. Christianity is Christ-centered but Bible is not its identity. For Protestants scripture is both 'focus and foundation' and they have to be familiar with translation, commentary, history, theology. The interpretation of Bible involves difficulties, Robert Billarmin said. Father Iraneus had said, 'Though church does not create the canon of scripture, it acknowledges, concerns, receives'. Bible was in many languages - Hebrew, Greek, Latin etc. In the Diet of Worms, Luther said (1521), 'My conscience is captive to the word of God.' Luther and Zwingli differed on sacramental theology. Anabaptism gave individual greater freedom and distinguished between magisterial and ministerial authorities. The issues on which Protestants differed were:

Baptism: Should infant be baptized?

Is Jesus Christ present in bread and wine?

Does baptism affect forgiveness of sin?

Should woman exercise leadership role in church?

Was the world created in six periods of 24 hours?

Should Christians fight in wars?

What is the most authentic form of worship?

For Protestants, God is infinite and they opposed statues which, they said, make God finite. They do not treat dogma, sacrament, church, personal experience, private religious experience, absolute allegiance, as absolute nor papal claims as infallible truth. They rejected papal infallibility and Bible which is Protestant's chief idol. God is omnipotent and omnipresent and to know the divinity man should focus on Him. In this sense, the Protestant emphasizes on Bible as the living word of God. Each individual's vision of God is limited. People mend their differences through ecumenical movement of words no longer meaningful.

Protestants do not treat dogma, sacraments, Church, personal experiences as absolute nor do they treat all papal claims as infallible truth. Following the ordainment of the First Commandment, 'You shall have no gods before me. God surrounds us,' they opposed idols and statues which limited the identity of God who stands at the intersection of the divine and the human. They added that the truth about God could be known through the Bible. But understanding Biblical tenets, gospels and myths etc variously created confusion. The situation was exploited in the name of religion by greedy priests who said the soul had to wait for a while in purgatory and told the waiting period can be reduced on receeipt of certain charges. Thus, the priest extracted money from the laity who resented such payment. Protestants offered the idea of correction and renewal of Christian faith. The Middle Age too had posed similar challenges. The system had to be reformed. Reformation gave rise to creativity and development.

The need for religious reforms was felt by the Roman Catholics much earlier. Luther broke from it feeling the need of spiritual movement and new seminaries to redefine theology in Catholic Church. An Association of

Priests and Christians led the drive for reform. In 1530 the Roman Catholic churches reached out to the Protestants for reconciliation but attitudes on both sides hardened; Protestants became non-institutionalized while the Roman Catholics took to INQUISITION. The Council of Trent (1545-63) revitalized the spiritual and ecclesiastical life to harmonize a hard line response. The Catholic Reformation reemphasized Church authority and mystery of life and expressed mass drama in baroque.

JESUITS

To serve as Thou deserved, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not cost the wounds, to toil and not to ask for any reward, save knowing that we do thy will. – Lloyla

A Society of Christ for education was formed by IGNASIUS LLOYLA (1491-1556): How he became a Jesuit is an interesting story. Born in a well to do family of Spain, he aspired to take up a military career but all his aspirations were shattered when at age 30, in an accident, he was wounded in a leg and the other was broken by a canon. During convalescence at the Lloyla Castle, he read biographies of Christ and saints and was influenced and instead of joining military, he resolved to become a Soldier of Christ. He went to school, learned Latin and joined the University of Paris. There he shared with FRANCIS XAVIER a room and started directing fellow students in spiritual exercises and broke them through devotion of Christ. Because of his extremist views, he once came under suspicion of inquisition. In 1539, after an appeal to Pope Paul III he formed a Society of Jesus (later JESUITS) vowing obedience to a senior who held office for life and offered to travel anywhere on any duty assigned him - to fight poverty and observe chastity. He was elected General Superior and from his two rooms, he worked all his life directing the Society, writing letters, administering Jesuit affairs and guiding men and women in spiritual life. During his life time the number of Jesuits increased to 1000.

In 1548 the Society opened schools for young persons in Italy, Portugal, Netherlands, Spain, Germany and India, and founded colleges and religious houses all over Europe, Brazil and Japan. The Jesuits carried

the message of Christ all over the world. The work of Jesuit missionaries FRANCIS ZAVIER and ROBERT de NICOLE (1577-1656) was much admired.

PROTESTANT REFORMS

THE MIDDLE AGES: Popes and emperors in European countries contested for supremacy. The rulers wanted to be free from greedy and immoral papacy and aspired their own autonomous national Church. Land hungry peasants resented excessive land possessions of Churches whose authority had weakened after Pope's captivity at Avignon (1308-78) and scandalous schisms in churches (1378-1416). Moreover, there was widespread concern over prevailing monastic corruption. The Council of Constance (1414-18) debated the need of reorganizing church hierarchy but changes were not made which led to greater upheaval and opened the way to Protestant Reformation. Consequently, the fetters of superstition and fear were broken and the church was set free to worship God in spirit and truth.

GERMANY: Priest John WYCLIFFE (1328-84) struck at sale of indulgences, excessive veneration of saints and low moral an intellectual status of ordained priests at papacy. Availability of translation of Bible and delivery of sermons in vernacular, instead of Latin, stimulated a movement by lay preachers called Lo Lards who roamed over England. Wycliffe was accused of heresy and burnt as a heretic posthumously. John Huss (1373-1415), Rector in the University of Prague, was summoned to Rome by Pope John XXXIII to defend himself on promise of safe conduct he travelled. But when he reached, without any hearing he was summarily condemned and burnt at the stake and executed in 1415. There were protests that were suppressed. Ultimately it ended in war.

In the 16th century the Hapsburg (Philip II) of GERMANY was the most powerful Orthodox Catholics power in Western Europe. FRANCE: Catholic Bourbon Louis XIII, an autocrat was the most powerful ruler of France. Cardinal Richelieu placed state above church. Under Louis XIV the emperor became fully autocratic. But the god did not work against chaos. France became Europe's largest cultural center. French replaced Latin French clacisism replaced Baroque. Around 1650 SPAIN was the

most prominent catholic power. But in 1643 and 1650 it was defeated by France. In 1648 it lost Netherland and in 1668 it lost Portugal. By the end of 17th century it was no more rated as a great power. The discordant city states of ITALY lost relevance in world politics. The power of papacy and Protestantism came to end. Rome was no more innovative and the Roman society was not modernized though the Roman system was working in catholic countries on condemnation ban on booking excommunication and suppression. After counter information pope V through Gregory Xiii to Urban VIII (1550-1650) had some success. ENGLAND: (1648-1789) The state was absolute.

The balance of power shifted from the Mediterranean to Western hemisphere nations. Netherland, France and England seized free ocean from Spain and Portugal.

FROM GOD TO HUMAN BEINGS: Mid 19th to mid 20th Century: The movement for counter revolution to Catholicism was conservative It was religion of people who lagged behind in economics, politics and culture. Protestantism was religion of rising Germans and Anglo Saxons. Pope decided on interpretation of Bible and did not tolerate damnation. Protestant was a rising religion. Pope decides on interpretation of Bible and did not tolerate deviation. Protestantism can refer to Bible and appeal to conscience. Reformation contributed and emphasized on responsibility and autonomy. Based on modern science, Galileo Galilei presented an evolutionary world. Newton constructed a new world system that made him father of classical theoretical physics. Descartes founded modern philosophy. The ideal of knowledge shifted from human beings to God.

When Pope Leo X decided to rebuild St Peter's in Rome, funds were needed and Leo asked Bishops to increase indulgences. (Indulgence allowed people to buy reduction in time in purgatory that was half way to heaven.) MARTIN LUTHER on a tragic personal experience challenged indulgences in his 95 Theses that led to PROTESTANT REVOLUTION. In 1505 Luther was caught in a thunder storm and almost struck by lightning; on a promise of confession, penance and pilgrimage he prayed

for security. But nothing happened. He realized the hollowness of the indulgence and left his Professor's job at the University of Wittenberg and became an Augustine monk. He was convinced of Paul's words that "the righteous will live by faith". This undermined the whole complicated confession system for him. The Pope charged him as 'a drunken German who once sober would change his mind'. Luther did not. He found support from other priests, scholars and humanists. Ignoring this, Leo excommunicated Luther. His books were banned and his arrest was ordered but Luther did not recant. He hid under the protection of Frederic the Wise in the castle where he wrote hymns of including the 'mighty fortress is our God' that is well known. (In 1525 he married a former nun; this was emulated by others and clerical marriages were introduced in Western Church.)

The reform movement made great strides among rulers. Divided along religiou and economic life, most of the princes and people of Germany welcomed the move. In 1524, an open peasant warfare broke out. It was defeated and a compromise was reached. The Lutheran minority protested against violence. The group that broke from Rome came to be known as Protestant. Luther and Zwingli, another leader, disagreed with Roman Catholics that bread and wine became Christ's body and blood. A conciliatory statement of Lutheran beliefs made by reformer Philipp Melonchethan (under advice Emperor Charles V) was not agreed but it became the creedal basis of the Lutheran Church. Protestantism reached its zenith in Germany under Maximilian II (1564-76) who converted many princes to Protestantism. In the Thirty-Years War many princes were either executed or their property was confiscated. (This laid the foundation of the Zech hostility to Germany.)

FRANCE: JOHN CALVIN (1504-64): The French reformers sought political asylum in Geneva and Calvin remained there till his end. After his death, Geneva became haven for fugitive Protestants. Many like John Knox took Protestantism with them on return to their countries. In 1546 Emperor Charles V added by Duke of Saxony in alliance with Pope declared war on the Association of Protestant Princes. The civil war ended in 1555 with the Peace of Asburg and with this ended the

religious unity of the Christian community. The militant Calvinists known as Huguenots were continually at religious war with Catholics between 1562 and 1598. This crippled the Protestant movement in France. In 1598, the edict of Nance granted the Huguenots freedom of Worship and political equality with Catholics. About half a million Huguenots fled France. The edict was revoked.

ENGLAND: England had a strong tradition of anti-clericalism and medieval Lo Lord movement. (It was a male and not a nun movement). The English reformation rose not because of any theological dispute, it arose because of political needs of King Henry VIII (1509-47). He wanted to divorce his wife Catherine of Argon who could not give him a male heir and he asked for the permission of Pope to annul the marriage. The pope refused to oblige. Henry retaliated by breaking politically from Pope. In 1533 he appointed Thomas Crammer as the arch Bishop of Canterbury. The next year the Primate granted divorce and freed the king to marry Anne Bolyne who was pregnant with his child. The Reformation Parliament in 1534 made Henry the supreme head of Church of England, separating it from Rome. Under advice of Cromwell, the English monasteries were dissolved as the monks and nuns were found involved in sexual and financial corruption between 1535 and 1544. The state confiscated the church property which brought huge wealth in Crown's hands. But these measures were opposed by Chancellor Sir Thomas More, Bishop of Rochester John Fisher and others who suffered for this. The Roman Catholics who rose against this were suppressed. On Henry's death in 1547, his son Edward through his admirers established Protestantism in English church and abolished catholic practices, furniture, stained glass, holy shrines, statues of saints and the requirement of celibacy of clergy was removed.

Edward (d.1553) was succeeded by Henry's daughter Mary. She repealed the reforms and England became Catholic. She married Catholic Philip II of Spain but could not become pregnant. She had Thomas Crammer burnt at stake and appointed in his place Reginald Pole of Canterbury. For heresy during her reign, 243 Protestants were burnt; many more fled. On her death, Anne Boleyn's daughter Elizabeth

(1558-1603) inherited the throne. Under her the Church moved towards a middle path. An Act of Uniformity forced people to attend the Anglican Church on Sunday. This was called Puritanism. The King James Bible helped unite Protestants.

Four traditions emerged -- the Lutheran, Calvinist, Presbyterian, and Anabaptist. Seventy million Christians belong to Lutheran Church and 400 million Protestants trace their origin to Luther. The Scottish Episcopal was inaugurated in 1582 which helped creation of Episcopal Church in U.S.A.

There was all-round revolutionary change. Philosopher Immanuel Kant synthesized rationalism and empiricism and appealed to practical reason, not to God. God is not known by pure science. He demands moral action. In Medieval Roman time, pope and his word, not God, was the supreme authority for reformation and modernity. Reason became the authority of truth. Rationality alone is truth, useful and binding. PHILOSOPHY GOT PRECEDENCE OVER THEOLOGY, SCIENCE OVER GRACE AND HUMAN OVER CHRISTIAN. This was what Copernicus had pleaded but Luther had rejected. When Galileo's case came up, Copernicus was placed on the Index of Banned Books. The Catholic Church was recognized not for its intellectual achievement or empirical assimilation or cultural competence; it was recognized for its defense of censorship and Inquisition. (Scientist Bruno was burned in Rome in 1600 for combining world model, not the piety of Neapolitan mystical renaissance; a few scientists were burned in France in early 1600s for combining reality of God with nature for writing about purity of God. In 1633 Galileo had to recant for his essay and was confined for eight years.) This poisoned the relationship between the rising scientists and Christians. Fear spread in the atmosphere. The publication of Treatise of Descartes had to wait for 14 years of his death. Science did not progress in Catholic countries.

CULTURAL REVOLUTION

REVOLUTIONS IN PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE CAUSED CULTURAL REVOLUTION. Impulses for a paradigm placed individual at the center of a new society; church and theology came from outside. In 17th century absolute order, discipline, Christ, dogma and Church leaders developed their own power and splendor. Secularization and emancipation let humanity, culture, religion society and church drift away. In 18th century Voltaire realized that all religions hated the church and interceded for tolerance for Huguenots. Belief in nature became the idea of progress and secularism prevailed in all spheres of life. History appeared progressive and rational. New words were coined, progress was assigned, attributes of eternity, omniscience, omnipresence and new unitary world view assured progress of history. An idea of self determination came up. The wars were thought of as inhuman, and reformation was considered the idea of demon, devil and magic. Witch trials were criticized. Burning, indulgence, pilgrimage, monastery and compulsory celibacy also came in for criticism. In Goa (India) there was animosity for the Inquisition of the Jesuit order, an agency of papacy and an exponent of anti-modernity. The order was abolished and around 18th century, it became insignificant. The idea of crusade lost its aggressiveness.

POLITICAL REVOLUTION

At the end of 18th century, in France the senior clergy, nobility and privileged classes controlled the society and state. In 1789, their representatives constituted the National Assembly at Versailles. As the Crown reacted it was realized that the power rested with people who embedded in National Assembly; they were sovereign. The revolution was carried out by violent action of masses under the program of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. On July 14, 1789 the masses stormed the Bastille. As Louise XIV recognized the revolution, on August 5-6 the Assembly passed a resolution against the church that it clean up its rotten condition. On August 26 a declaration of human and civil rights was made.

RADICAL REFORMATION

As for reforms in religion, radical reformists questioned the reformation of the Roman Catholic Church which gave rise to Anabaptist groups. Their message appealed to the poor, oppressed and disinherited. Though they agreed with important Protestant doctrines, they were dubbed as heretics by both Catholics and Protestants. (Ana means re-baptized.). They believed in indivisible church and regarded the divided church corrupt. In South Germany MUNITZER preached the inner self transformation of people by Holy Spirit and consequential holy society that transformed believers to usher in the KINGDOM OF GOD. The Free Church in Switzerland supported Anabaptists, Ulrich Zwingli, and HOFFMAN who focused on 'imminent end of the world'.

ENGLAND: In the 16th century English congregations founded churches of believers independent of state but linked in fellowship. The earliest Baptist church in England was linked with John Smyth as Pastor in Amsterdam in 1600. In 1611 the Congregation was taken to England where Congregation churches spread rapidly. Charles II re-established Church of England that became a respectable denomination. Baptists had a renaissance in 19th century and C.H. Super Surgeon and John Clifford (1830-1923) were known for pulpit oratory. They sparked Protestant enterprise. In HOLLAND the Maronites (earlier Anabaptists) shared with Baptists religious liberty, separation of church and state and American Salvation.

SOUL, HEART, AND MIND

What does the Christianity aim at? Does it aim at purification of man's heart or soul? What do the Christians want: doctrines or devotion? The Lutherans were not for devotion. According to Heinrich Miller, the 'Lutheran Church offered four dumb idols- the fast, the pulpit, the confessional, and the altar' but retained the Roman Catholic liturgical traditions. Calvin suggested the way Christians should pursue life. The Presbyterian Church favored both the doctrine and devotion. The mystic Jacob Boehm and Johann Arndt (author of True Christianity) advocated

revival of Christianity. PIETISM: To discard orthodoxy and instead revive Christianity, PHILLIP JOSEF SPENER in 1675 founded Pietism. To nourish the soul, he proposed six measures: hold Bible studies, involve in church leadership, emphasize practical living, give sympathetic hearing to heterodoxy, reduce stress on devotion in training, and act on sermon. Pastors adopted these measures. Theologian HERMAN FRANKLE was criticized by the orthodox who favored theology- based institutional church and their incorporation in devotional Christianity. He took it to heart and founded a University at Halle. For attaining holiness, he pleaded for a theology based church. From Halle, Christianity spread to North Germany, Moscow and Sweden. Some priests disapproved of dance and theatre as part of rites. Some made religion a matter of heart of life to prepare way for enlightenment which gave the laity a new role in church. They were concerned with missions, evangelism and social concerns. In 1817 they helped create Evangelical Church in Prussia. The Prussian king ordered unity of the Lutheran and Reformed churches. Some of those who dissented moved out to America and formed the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod. JOHN WISLEY, influenced by the Synod, began Methodist movement in England. Modern American Methodists and Holiness continued to work under the influence of Pietism which influenced Alexander Mack to begin New Baptism.

MORAVIAN BROTHERS: Count von Zindador founded a church and a colony in Saxony. C.F. Swartz took it to India and George Smith to South Africa. The Moravian Movement influenced the Norwegian Lutheran missionary Hans Egede who is known as the apostle of Greenland.

THE AGE OF REASON: In the 16th century the Polish astronomer Nicolas Copernicus (1473-1543) explained the way for enlightenment by planet movement by a heliocentric universe; Galileo's experiments posed some difficult questions for Christianity that brought him to trial by Inquisition. Descartes, Baruch Spinoza, G.W. Leibniz, Josef Locke and others contributed to the progress of thought. Descartes offered proof of God in his statement, "I think therefore I am". (See the philosophy section.) Intellectuals named the result ENLIGHTENMENT - The Age of Reason. Reason is the final arbiter in matters of scripture and Christian

doctrines. Locke, Voltaire, Rousseau, David Hume and Kant believed that we can understand nature through reason alone. Voltaire's secular approach marginalized religion as superstition which gave a boost to RENAISSANCE and an assurance that man could control anything through reason, even his life; through reason he would understand religion, philosophy, law, world. MOST THINKERS ABANDONED ORGANISED RELIGION and relegated it to the background. They embraced Deism which had an interesting explanation of God. (God created watch and left its control, allowing it to run by itself.) Such thinkers included eminent scientists like Darwin and Einstein. It may be stressed that reason rejects all claims to absolute truth, papal infallibility, idolatry, private religious experience. (Protestants emphasized that Bible is the living word of God.)

METHODISM

Coldness and corruption prevailing in orthodox churches provoked AWAKENING among Christians. John Wesley (1703-91) and his younger brother Charles founded at Oxford a club that was named Holy Club after their methodical habits: weekly communion, fasting, abstaining from entertainment, visiting poor areas etc: they were dubbed Methodists. Influenced by Luther's preference to Paul's Gospel, Luther preached in open air and formed a Methodist Society in England. From 1735 onward, Wesley and the Methodist Society were attacked and during sermons he often suffered at the hands of clergymen and magistrates. He died in poverty in 1791, leaving behind 135000 methodists and 541 preachers, beside written services. Brother Charles composed numerous hymns. Whitefield separated and formed Calvinistic Methodism.

FIRST AWAKENING (1726-70), an evangelical revival made in the Dutch Reformist Church with the efforts of the Presbyterians and congregations was followed by awakening in New England. Dr Thomas Coke, father of Modern Missions ordained Asbury, a deacon, who became a leading Bishop. Thomas worked hard to increase Methodist support for Christian missions. (He died on a missionary trip to India.) The revival that swept across American colonies split Christians in two

groups: one that supported preaching and the other that opposed it. Driven out of pulpit, preacher Jonathan took the first mission to Native American Indians. He became the president of the College of New Jersey (now PRINCETON UNIVERSITY). In the end the pro-Revisionists won and revivalism continued to be a major part of American Christians. (Repression prevented coming up of such educational schools in orient.)

SECOND AWAKENING (1787-1825) occurred in North America. It renewed interest in religion and inspired social activism. The Methodists founded the BOSTON UNIVERSITY and revived YALE in 1802. In 1839, the Northern and Southern branches reunited. But in the latter half of the 19th century, the Northern and Southern American Methodist churches bitterly disputed slavery bitterly while the Wesleyan and Free Methodist churches were staunchly supported slavery. The Free Methodists were against slavery and helped liberate slaves in a railroad incident. In 1845 the churches of slave- holding state at Louisville- split away from the Methodist Protestant Church. Conservatives and segregationist Southerners formed the Southern Methodist Church.

(It is a pity that other religions made such improvements in education and freedom from men slavery.)

During the First World War the Methodists made a strong plea for world peace. President Wilson pronounced a war to end all wars but in 1930s many Methodists favored isolation.

THIRD AWAKENING: In 1958 with the beginning of a movement in South at several places, the Church membership grew at a fast pace. The awakening was however interrupted by Civil War though it stimulated revival in South.

In 1968 the United Evangelical Brethren and Methodist Church merged to form the United Methodist Church. (As many as forty five denominations claim descent from the Methodist Church, the Church of Nazarene being one of them.) The Holiness movement based on Wesley's teachings is opposed by Pentacont aka Charismatic movement of The Assembly of God and The Church Alliance. Methodism emphasizes

social service and opening of educational institutions. World-wide the Methodist Church claims to have 75 million members.

CANADA: A Methodist Church began in Canada in 1884. In 1925 the merger of the Methodist with Presbyterian Church formed the united Church of Canada. Ghana and Nigeria, in Africa, have strong Methodist Church. Europe, Australia, Polynesia and South Korea also have active Methodist Church. PENTACONTALISM: With the Holiness movement as its precursor, in 1870, Seymour in Los Angeles was the first Pantaconta Church. It is the largest Protestant group and the third largest Christian force (after Roman Catholics and Protestants) in the world. It teaches that after conversion, Christians can experience baptism in the Holy Spirit – a fresh encounter with God. From Wesley it inherited the idea of a crisis experience after baptism (second blessing).

SALVATION ARMY IN USA: The mission of Salvation Army began with William Booth, a London-based Methodist Minister who gave up his pulpit to take the Christian message to the hungry, poor, destitute and homeless. But it was a sort of rebuff to him when a group of shabby and hungry people sent by him to the Church was turned out. But Booth was undaunted and he himself opened The East London Christian Mission, renaming it in 1978 the Salvation Army because of their uniform and flag like a Military organization. William summed up his message in 3S's -soup, soap and salvation. Initially, the alcoholics, drug addicts, prostitutes and society's other marginal members were converted. The Salvation Army prohibited its members to smoke, take drugs and alcohol and gamble but they were not barred from baptism and Holy Communion. As it grew, it was fiercely opposed. The activities of the Salvation Army were disrupted when its members were busy with their work; they were assaulted, mostly by alcohol dealers. In 1880, the Salvation Army set an office in New York. By 1900 it had spread around the world. It responded to missing persons, aids and international diseases.

CRUSADE CAN BE FOR OR AGAIST ANY HUMAN ENDEAVOR e.g. it could be AGAINST poverty, greed, conservatism, fundamentalism, superstition, ignorance, or FOR understanding of faith and fellow

feeling.g. GLOBALISATION THROUGH FAITHS: A religion should bring peace and happiness to its adherents and amity and reconciliation with people of other faiths and for this barriers of estrangement and alienation should be broken down. A religion should aim at well-being of entire humanity and should encourage moderation. It should not be obsessed with past nor should it be dissociated from the past. It should be connected with the lives of citizens. (The Universe A Family, this was propounded by Hindu religion thousands of years back but not acted upon.)

[After the terrorist attack on USA on September 9, 2001, the Al Qaida Muslim fundamentalists are engaged in globalizing Jihad, thrusting their ideology on Muslims and trying to convert non-Muslims to Islam, if required by violence. ISIS is the latest window of fundamentalist Muslims. The Christian ecclesiasts are also engaged in converting non-Christians to Christianity though they do so mostly in subtle ways such as providing education, medicine, soup kitchen etc.

The humankind missed opportunities in 1918, 1945 and 1990 to establish world order because of the ego and selfish interests of their political and religious outfits. (They talk of human rights but act otherwise. The victors in the World War I carved out the boundaries of imperialists who ran the world according to their whims. The dissatisfaction of the losers within two decades led to World War II. After this the division of the world fell into the laps of capitalist and communist powers, each of them determined to fashion the world to suit its ideology, forgetting that religious fanaticism could damage their dreams of One World. However, it cannot be denied that racism has declined, and so have differences skin complexes and wealth also. Led by extremists Osama bin Laden and Jawahiri, they attacked USA , killing three thousand lives and destroying huge material properties. The retaliation of President Bush with the assistance of Islamic strategic partners like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan could hardly be expected to defeat extremism to bring peace to the world. Since 2001 the conservatives and egotists have hardly made any move towards peace.

Christianity and Buddhism have some qualities common to both. Both ask for compassion for suffering humanity. Buddha saw sick, old, dead and monk and withdrew, and learned Yoga, austerity and asceticism, Christ experienced revelations. Christ practiced baptism and was withdrawn for 40 days in the desert to conquer desires and had revelations; . Buddha had enlightenment, Christ redeemed. Buddha showed no miracle; Christ did, one of which was to feed bread and fish to hundreds of hungry,]

CHAPTER 7

BIO-ETHICS

The winds of change blew in Christian world. With change came fresh approach and openness to new matters and new ideas, pertaining to bio-ethics. In 1968 Pope John VI repudiated ARTIFICIAL CONTRACEPTION (encyclical human vitae). This was ignored by Catholics in several democracies. Pope John Paul II was the first non-Italian Pope (during the past over four hundred years) who strove to align the church with the sufferers of the Third World. He created a large number of saints, tried to limit the excesses of Vatican II and adopted a strict approach to the doctrine of marriage, woman's ordination and celibacy of priests. His work for human rights was appreciated.

The modern world faces several problems of bio-ethics. The case of a French lady oft cited may be narrated. During a visit to a clinic, a female patient was informed about the danger to her person by her large size fetus. For her life's sake, she was advised better to abort or reduce the to-be-born to manageable size. Her and her husband's response was that the fetus was God's gift and the pregnancy could not be tempered with. Was abortion equivalent to killing a person? Some relevant and valid questions are raised:

(1) Is termination of pregnancy or abortion of zygote morally and legally justified?

(2) What is the responsibility and duty of the woman who has fetus inside her body?

(3) Is it justified to deprive the zygote of its life and future?

(4) Should euthanasia be permitted?

(5) Are abortion and contraception of egg and sperm morally wrong?

(6) Should involuntary surgical interventions (C- Section) be allowed in crisis?

The conservatives plead that a being ('zygot') that begins at conception is aborted. It (zygote) has the biological capacity to support human fertility (e.g. self- consciousness, rationality) and therefore abortion in such a case will amount to killing a person. The emergence of one-cell chromosome zygote is emergence of child's personal history.

The view of biologists who favor abortion is that an entity can have a right to life provided it has a concept of life - such as capacity of desire and mental status to continual existence as a sub-entity. Is the unborn a person? If he is, justice and malfeasance will prohibit abortion. Reproductive medicine gives control over fertility. Prenatal diagnosis fetus allows parents to decide not to bring a disabled child in the world. (Cloning and genetic engineering are facts.)

The French couple took a fertility drug. The woman conceived seven embryos. The couple was advised to abort but they refused and said that if they risked the lives and health of some babies, it was God's will. It is unnatural for human female uterus to have multiple births. The Gynecologists advise that the results of multiple births are generally not good. Keep off!

Feminists on the other hand want technologists to free woman from the oppression of biological reproduction. To cut short, what is needed is change in the attitudes of institutions. Many solutions, including high tech procedures like IVF and social surrogate motherhood, are offered. (Surrogate mother is one who is inseminated with the sperm of a man to whom she is not married and on birth of a baby she relinquishes her claim to it.) Her in-put is equal to that of man's. It may be questioned: is giving child by her is the same as the sale of child? Is contractual pregnancy moral? Such a pregnancy involves transferring burden and risk, separating sex and reproduction, and reproduction and child rearing.

What is to be done if such a birth involves a severe handicap? Is life

with a severe handicap preferable to one with no life? Also, there are neurological impairment cases. Brain death syndrome and irreversible coma indicate a diffuse disease. Function is abolished at cerebral, brain stem and spinal levels. People with irreversibly ceased to function brains are considered legally dead. (Is irreversible coma a death? It is generally held that if the brain has been destroyed, there is no recovery of consciousness and there is no point in maintaining the body.) Religious minded people would question: Parts of such a being ars saleable. Is this not a convenient way of making organs available for transplantation and withdrawing treatment from the needy? One view is that brain- dead are not really dead as even after declaration of brain drain, some brains continue functioning. Indian experts have no set view. American Courts favor continuing life support unless evidence indicates that patients would not have liked to be kept alive. The British courts differ and hold that if a patient is incapable of consenting to medical treatment, doctors are not legally bound to continuing treatment that does not help the patient. When to a patient life is of no benefit, he is irreversibly unconscious. Cancer, a serious disease, was little known till yester years, is seen increasing.

(A Sr. Indian Doctor, Vishnu Jotwani told an ICC meeting that Dementia is yet another serious decease against which the world is fighting today. He informed details of the London conference of Dementia (2013). The stories of dementia narrated by patients are interesting. I recall an encounter with one such patient in 1949 when the students (I was one of them) of M.A. (Philosophy, Final Year was for Experimental Psychology) of the Lucknow University were on a study tour, escorted by Prof Ram Murti Loomba. One of the institutes visited by students for study of Psychiatry was the Agra Mental Hospital where an inmate we met introduced himself as Jawaharlal Nehru, prime minister of India! We were not amused and felt sympathy for the patient. A psychiatrist, Dr Kulkarni (from Bombay) settled in Milpitas (California) informed the ICC meeting about the symptoms of dementia caused by Alziemer-like degeneration, non-recognition of known persons, incapability of saying words, incontinence, frequently falling, inability to walk etc.

The situation is not as dismal. Most people are now asked to submit information in 'Advance Directive and Precedent Autonomy' and they are advised about pain control, terminal illness and alcoholic restraint.

(Cases of transplantation of liver etc are also problematic. Is it ethical to remove organs from dead\living bodies? Sale of blood, kidney, AID and HIV are similar. There are innumerable cases of needs, wants and desires of human beings which need to be met. It is well known that the resources to meet needs of patients are finite. (This is true of health care also.)

HOMOSEXUALITY, ABUSE OF CHILDREN

In the past cases of aberrations like homosexuality were found in monasteries and churches but no corrective measures were taken by the Church authorities. These were generally suppressed or at best sometime a clergy or pastor resigned. The main reason of the malady was suppressed sex because of mandatory celibacy for priests. The dogma needed to be changed. The Catholic Church relaxed rules and gave permission to the clergy to marry. Even then these acts, considered unethical continued.

In 2002 when a number of cases of misuse of children by priests came to light in USA, the American Roman Catholics Association who should have taken remedial measures hushed up the cases. A few priests were prosecuted and some prelates resigned. Following the death of Pope John Paul II in 2005, the new German Pope Benedict XVI gave the slogan 'Love Forever.' But he was so much disturbed by the conditions existing in the church that he resigned. In March 2013 an Argentinean Cardinal was elected as the 266th Pope. He assumed the name Pope Francis II and found the society critical of such aberrations and considered these as abnormal and criminal acts. According to some sociologists 8% of the world population is 'homo' and add that this is not caused by any cultural or social pressures. The religious minded say that such occurrences are results of collective sins and some fear the problem may have political and legal angles also. The president of an African country had drawn the attention of US Administration about the

statement of a visiting U.S. dignitary in favor of homosexuality while the law of that country dealt with it as a criminal act.

In 2014 (Oct.20) Catholic Bishops reversed a historic acceptance of gays – reaching out to the homosexuals and Catholics who have divorced and remarried in civil services. This did away with pastoral attention and welcome to persons with homosexual orientations, gay and lesbians. This meant opposition to marriage of same gender couples.

Child trafficking is another disturbing evil in both East and West. In Kerala, a state of India, in August 2014 as many as 600 children were found in unauthorized orphanages and child care centers. Cases of rape of women and young children are reported from time to time from most of the countries of the world, especially the Middle East, African countries and South Asia. Rape is an extremely depraved act that violates a human body and leaves the person's memory permanently scarred. Homosexuality and child abuse need be treated with harshness as social problems. They relate to the conduct of offenders.

CIRCMCISION and ODDITIES

John the Baptist had baptized Jesus. On John's death, Jesus took to baptizing. After Jesus' crucifixion, Paul started initiating people into baptism. He found it easy to initiate Gentiles into baptism. But the Jews had their own line of initiation-circumcision-and considered themselves different - as the chosen people of God. Many consider the tradition of circumcision as irrational.

The birth of Christ was initially thought of as a miracle. Then the theologians began to ask of 'what substance Jesus was made in the womb of the virgin?' and, when was trinity added to the faith? "Was the virgin mother the mother of Jesus?" The Arians and Nestorians joined. Their luck depended on whom the Emperor sided. In the 8th century Charlemagne had made Christianity compulsory and killed those who refused to embrace Christianity. From that time history reeks 'with blood and fire, torture and warfare, the crusades, persecutions and inquisitions'. 'The massacre of St Bartholomew was an outrage on Christianity, while

the campaign of Frederick the Great was in its defense. Torquimada and Lloyla were the very heart of Jesus. John Wesley and Fox met their unfortunate fates. There is glaring contradiction between teaching and practice. However, a critic rightly says, "There is nothing in the teachings of Christ that cannot be assented to by a Brahman, a Mohammedan, a Buddhist or a Jew, without requiring conversion to Christianity."

GUN LOBBY

Law in a democracy prohibits each individual to possess gun (guns). Law prescribes that no one will use a gun without license. Gun is a symbol of power and he who wields it is expected to make its use judiciously. But today it is being misused by the unscrupulous to gain control over others and to commit crime. Gun lobby in USA is extremely powerful, so much that even governments and powerful persons have not been successful in curbing the activities of the gun wielding hooligans. During 2013-14, in a number of schools in USA tens of students were victims of shootings by licensed guns. To bring the situation under control, Government decided to change the license rules. The public supported the proposed changes but the gun lobbyists were so powerful that they did not let the matter proceed. Even the media appeared gagged. Loss of innocent lives did not bother the gun lobby and their supporters. This became an issue in Congress elections. In the city of Sunnyvale at the time of elections a meeting of citizens (including prospective candidate Ro Khanna) passed a resolution that laid down rules for license for gun control and connected matters. This too proved as one more pious resolution for the public benefit. But who bothers?

PORNOGRAPHY

Films entertain public and this popular medium is capable of doing wonders to the society. But at the present, instead it is doing much avoidable harm. It stresses female body in vulgar ways to make it attractive. The very idea of bringing in cleanliness is scoffed at. The publication of pornographic material in print media and smart phones and cheap data packages infringe social norms. At least 3000 porn websites around the world feature the revenge genre and their number

is increasing. In Japan the number of cases reported to police between 2008 and 2012 had tripled to 27334.

Guided by the profit motive, the film producers think that 'sensuality is essential for the survival of human beings. Sensuality makes life worth living; it is the essence of human being.' But the Greek sculpture never evoked any sexual feeling perhaps because the sculpture depicted gods, not ordinary human beings, Similar was the case with Hindu depiction. Hindus worship Shiva and Parvati who are presented in temples in symbolic form of 'Linga and Yoni' that never creates any sensuous feelings. Ajanta, Konark belong to the same class. Because of too much publicity, the sculptures of Khajuraho are treated differently. No language is immune from erotic poetry. The modern man has become so addict, courtesy the Kamasutra that they react to sensuality. The conservative religious activists 'react with suspicion and venom, vitriol and violence.' The result is 'Art exhibitions are vandalized...books are burnt, films banned...Suppression of sensuality leads to perversion.' There are accusations of obscenity and hurt to religious sentiments for painting some nude mythological character. Censorship follows. There is gender discrimination and hypocrisy.

GOOD AND EVIL

Theists believe that whatever is or happens is due to God's will. Is God responsible for an evil that man commits? A controversy about good and evil has been going on for long. It was said God, being omnipotent, omniscient and benevolent knows what is going on. Do people suffer from evil? The problem of evil is inconsistent with nature and attributes of God. Many questions arise. Why do pain and suffering exist? Does God forbid us to do evil? If he forbids, then evil might exist independent of God. If we suffer, then the reason may be that we are committing evil. Is inflicting pain on others an evil? Why does not God eliminate evil? Is elimination of one of His attributes e.g. if God was omniscient, then how is that he would not know of man's suffering, and if so then God and evil can co-exist and His capability of knowing would not be questioned. Is it that God can't exist without evil, which may not be an attribute to God. This universe would be better than without evil.

Christian theocrats say evil exists because man has freewill to act. God created both good and evil. If God created evil then it is implicit that God may control/ restrict evil. In that case suffering is a necessary truth over which God has no power or God does not exist or does not exercise His power; therefore circumstantial pain becomes a necessary part of life.

An individual who is suffering or suffers pain for others' sake develops compassion towards others when he becomes aware of their suffering. This goes well with human beings and suffering in them is caused by acts of God. Does God inflict pain and suffering on man? Did God give man free will to choose to commit evil? If He did, then God's act is an evil. Are Genocide and Slavery not evil? Or is evil an act of man's freewill? It may be said that suffering is necessary for man for developing moral values – that is why good and evil co-exist. If evil is eliminated then good won't have any worth and it would automatically disappear. Or is it that God's conception of evil is different from man's idea of good and evil. Has an evil a hidden purpose? A man is asked to have faith in God. In that case devil will affect omnipotence of God and monotheists may ignore unpleasant parts of scriptures. Bible and Quran mention cases of evil such as slavery. In the Old Testament God admits that He is the source of evil when he said, 'I create Devil.' Is Devil a separate autonomous entity? The fact is that human instincts take precedence over supposed divine commands. When commands offend common sense, reason prevails. Should theists and anti-theists fight for their ideals?

MONOTHEISM: People in ancient times were mostly polytheists; they believed in multiplicity of gods. Egyptian gods were colossal, India projected too many gods. '330 million'! Sumerian deities were terrifying. Roman Catholics took to devotion of saints, erected churches with multiplicity of altars. The view was traditional, not rational. They found interference in their affairs by unseen power whom they worshipped with the aid of intermediary priests. Adornment or epiphany in inner sanctuaries added to their satisfaction. This was projection/personification of the transcendental as benevolent, sinister, hostile. Greeks had a fertility divinity; another one, Mars aroused war

like impulses. Were the god(s) products of rituals that release pent up emotions? (Was the myth because of fusion or identification?) Sun, Moon, stars, rivers also figure as deities in Rig Veda. The Christian hermits devoted their life through meditation and ascetic discipline and claimed immediate experience\ vision of God. In Early Christianity, Christians were known as saints - persons of supernatural piety who were sanctified. They adopted Canonization, a tempting device. (Likewise is the temptation of paradise to young Muslims who offer themselves for suicide for the faith's sake.) In August-September, 2014 almost each day sordid cases of rape, abduction, child-abuse etc were reported by media. Conversions under deceit were also in profusion. What hurt people's sensibility was that instead of diffusing the matter, the media, both print and visual, inflamed communal frenzy because a girl of a community was abducted which caused riots and loss of human life. Moradabad, Saharanpur, Meerut were left by administration to settle scores.

Theists believe that the world survives through the grace of a supernatural power, a Holy God who is represented by an idol. Christians believe that Jesus Christ was Son of God and man is a part God and part Christ. If we are in Christ we are already awakened in spiritual life. We gain His deeper knowledge and adore Him because we see His majesty and Jesus Christ takes our sins and demerits; he expects our obedience. A living faith brings us the fruits of repentance and righteousness. Superstitions are galore.

In the 19th century Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-90) mistrusted modern theologians and mitigated anti-Catholicism. Pope Paul IX (1846-78) responded to the problems of industrial age and approved of modernism, republicanism, liberalism, socialism and nationalism. The Syllabus of Errors issued by Pope damaged his credibility. In 1964, the pope introduced the dogma that Mary was born free of original sin. (The Pope in the first Vatican Council in 1869 had summoned entire Diocese in his jurisdiction. In 1870, the revolutionaries put the Papal estates to end and the Pope became a prisoner of the Vatican. Pope Leo XIII (1878-1906) defended working rights of people and preached a just economic system based on Christian values. He revived the theology of Thomas Aquinas and tried to bring papacy to terms with modern world.

Pope Benedict XI who tried to prevent the World War, was shut out by the victors from their discussions. Pope Pius XI tried to prevent World War II but failed. He did not recognize the dangers of fascism in Italy and Germany. In 1929 he reached an agreement but failed to stabilize the Vatican City as an independent state. Pope John XXIII observed, "Truth calls for the elimination of every trace of sacred discrimination and consequent recognition of inviolable principle that all states are by nature equal to dignities." He spirited a new life and in 1963 addressed an encyclical to all and the Second Vatican Council (1962-66) for upgrading the churches, modernizing the liturgy structure, celebrate the mass in vernacular and reduce emphasis on saints and fasts. Tension between churches reduced. Christianity preaches devotion to creator. A Christian lays emphasis on adhering to Christian precepts while others stress upon meditation, sacrificial rites and rules to understand the nature of reality. Christian theologians work on an ethical system based upon scriptures. We may here mention the name of St Augustine, one of the greatest exponents of Christianity.

St AUGASTINE (354-430)

St Augustine is considered as the greatest Christian theologian of the first millennium. Born in a Roman town in North Africa in youth he was a hedonist and taught rhetoric in Carthage and later at Rome and Milan. All the while devoted to learning, he studied religions, religious pluralism, mystery, and the savior god called Mithras\ Osiris, Adonis\ Attis, Orpheus\ Dionysus, and two eternal elements- God and Matter, good and evil, truth and falsehood. In 386 he converted to Christianity. He studied Greek philosophy and Neo-Platonism from Ambrose and was influenced by the idea of LOGOS THAT DEVIATES BETWEEN THE DIVINE AND PHYSICAL WORLD. He was appointed bishop of Hippo. He produced many Christian philosophical works. Faith is central to Augustine's vision of Christianity and he believed that reason should be subordinate to faith. God with his grace illumines the mind. God is omnipotent and omniscient and omnipresent. A philosopher loves wisdom which comes from knowledge of truth. The highest truth is God. One who loves wisdom must love God. Eternal truth serves as a foundation for morality. God's divine will is the eternal law. Augustine argued that perfect happiness cannot exist in the world.

The theists face the dilemma: How to reconcile the Judeo-Christian assumptions concerning God? If God is benevolent like father why should evil exist? Augustine offers solution to evil: it is a consequence of 'fall of man' due to original sin. All natural evils (earthquake, flood, plague, drought, war) result from original sins and all moral evils (war, rape, genocide) are also the result of original sin. Evil has also been explained as the absence of the fullness of goodness and (reality or God). In 'The City of God', Augustine says the most important thing in an individual's life is his relationship to God, and not his material success. The lesson: Do not focus on this world, focus on eternity. 'Give up reason; it alone cannot provide guidance, only divine guidance in the form of revelation can.' This is the base of Christian morality. The best thing is to look upon God as absolute order; to love God is to love Order. Senses submit to reason (said Plato), reason submits to God. Worship of God is the greatest virtue as was rhymed by poet Malookdas: A python is servant to none nor does a bird work for others yet they survive, courtesy God. God takes care of everyone. More amusing: He who gives one mouth, provides two hands.

THICS OF POLITICS

For several centuries human behavior was influenced by religion and with the progress of religion, it took political color. In 20th century it began take eco-political complex. The Mediterranean considerations returned, and Islam asserted itself at the cost of liberalism. Ignoring the scientific developments or whatever did not suit conservative, feudalistic Muslims. Ignoring all ethics some of fanatics invaded USA by using US airplanes and modern American knowledge.

On June 27, 2007, President Bush while expressing his appreciation of Islam at the rededication ceremony of the Islamic Center of Washington D.C. told the gathering that for centuries the faith has enriched civilization, and "We stand together in the pursuit of freedom and peace". America's Bill of Rights protects the freedom of religion and the new initiative he was announcing would 'improve mutual understanding and cooperation between America and people in predominately Muslim countries...Today we are rallying the world to confront genocide in Sudan. Americans of

all beliefs have undertaken these efforts out of compassion, conviction and conscience. The greatest challenge facing people of conscience is to help the process of moderation win the struggle against extremism that is now playing out the broader Middle East. The concept of religious freedom and individual rights' has exploded in 'every region of the world except in the Middle East... where the rise of a group of extremists seek to use religion as a path to power and means of domination. These self-appointed vanguards presume to speak for Muslims. They call all Muslims who do not believe in their harsh and hateful ideology "infidels' and 'betrayers' of the true Muslim faith...these radicals are Islam's true enemy...They undertake butchery and mayhem in the name of Allah.'

"We must help millions of Muslims as they rescue a proud and historic religion from murderers and beheaders who seek to soil the name of Islam. We must encourage more Muslim leaders to add their voices to speak out against radical extremists who infiltrate mosques to denounce organizations that use the veneer of Islamic belief to support and fund acts of violence, and to reach out young Muslims...in the free world...who believe outside bombing may someday be justified.... The Middle East became an incubator for terrorism and despair...The Muslim hostility to the world has increased...A future of freedom is the dream and the desire of every loving heart....The free world hears you. You are not alone. America offers its hand in friendship. We pray that you and your children may one day know freedom in all things, including the freedom to love and to worship the Almighty God. (Extracted from the official text released by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.) Such pious sentiments were a waste on fundamentalists. Similar sentiments were expressed by President Barak Obama at Cairo soon after assumption of Presidency. These also went waste. (See the crop up of ISIS which is engaged in brutality, senseless murder and mayhem!)

CHAPTER 8

CRUSADES, REVOLUTIONS, WORLD WARS

The Crusade is to Roman Catholics what Jihad is to the Muslim fundamentalists, not absolutely but largely. Crusade was a religious symbol synonymous of a vigorous campaign for the retrieval of the Holy Land (Jerusalem), a pilgrimage centre, by Christians from Muslims. The Romans had founded a large empire across the Mediterranean which sometime afterwards had begun disintegrating under Barbarian attacks.

The Muslims claimed Jerusalem on the ground that Prophet Mohammad had ascended to heaven from there (Jerusalem). In the eighth century Khalid Omar fought for the conquest of Jerusalem. When the Christians were disunited and weak, the Muslims succeeded in overthrowing the Roman - hold and occupied Jerusalem. During the 11th and 14th centuries Pope backed by a papal court dominated the hierarchy of Roman Catholicism and had a project of reforms. This increased power of church and bureaucracy. Pope Gregory VII (1035-85) took keen interest in safeguarding the church. Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) reached the zenith of papal power and established papal monarchy in Western Europe and brought major rulers of Europe under his control. He decided to recover the Holy Land and planned a series of crusades. In 1215 he called the Fourth Lateral Council that authorized a crusade against and proposed substantiation i.e. transformation of blood and wine into body through the power of God. (The Council also planned to seek control over Jews who should pay tithe to the clergy and wear a distinctive piece of red or yellow cloth and wear a hat of a specific color.)

The kings of West European countries who had become strong abided by the call of pope and initiated crusade in the name of Christianity.

They forgot their rivalries and joined hands for the retrieval of Jerusalem and neighboring pilgrimage places. Because of Muslim hold over the pilgrimage centers had become hazardous. The Christian potentates, exhorted by the Pope, undertook military expeditions to retrieve Christian land(s) from Muslims and to bring back converted Byzantine to the Christian hold and stop further Islamic assaults on Christian lands and conversions. Exteriorly, Jihad and crusade look alike but resemblances are deceptive. One, Crusade, unlike Jihad, was not a scripture-bound duty; it was an emotional upsurge and response of Christian kings and knights to Pope's appeal to unite in the cause of faith. Two, while Jihad aimed at territorial conquest and aggrandizement, crusade focused on retrieval for their lost Christian territories and on stopping further Islamic encroachment and advancement. Three, the Quran ordained that Muslims should join Jihad – the cause of Allah – which is to spread Islam and convert unbelievers and infidels to their faith, Crusade was only spiritual, Jihad was both spiritual and materialistic. Fourthly, whenever Islamic authorities proclaimed Jihad, they were backed by scriptures that its success would open the door to paradise for the faithful. If a Jihadi was martyred, he secured a special place in Allah's proximity, whereas a Christian soldier dying in the cause of faith was not declared a saint.

Jihad and crusade, both were accompanied with anger, hatred and violence against the opponents and both were also imbued with the ideas of unity and community service. The Quran links the birth of Islam with the creation of a world empire but makes no distinction between temporal and religious powers. Mohammad was both commander of Army of Medina and Head of Islam. He derived authority from Allah and created an Umma that pursued Jihad as the primary vehicle for spreading Islam. In world history, Muslims enjoyed a unique position from the 8th ^{ce}ntury to mid- 17th century. The Christian-Muslim relations have rarely been even. The crusade was partially the result of a nascent pressure by the Seljuk Turks upon Byzantine which was compelled to take defensive measure. Destruction of the Holy Sepulcher by the Fatimid Caliph al Hakim in 1009 angered Christians and they waged a war against Muslims hoping to retrieve their pilgrimage centre and acquire glory, booty and remission of sin.

Jihad is extant and in need, it may be evoked any time; crusades after serving their purpose went out of vogue. Since it was not revived, crusade became part of religious political history of Christianity. In fact crusade was launched only after the loss of the Holy Land by Christians and only when the European Christendom had gained strength and become more powerful than the Muslim Sultans that they launched crusade. Crusade is retaliation of Islamic Jihad. First call for crusade was raised in the eleventh century when Pope Urban II (1018-1118) exhorted faithful and made the appeal: "From the confines of Jerusalem and from the city of Constantine a horrible tale has gone forth. An accursed race has invaded the lands of the Christians and depopulated them by sword, plundering and fire. Oh Most valiant soldiers! Start upon the road to Holy Sepulcher to tear that land from the wicked race and subject it to yourself." This was in response to the Seljuk Turks' conquest of Asia Minor from the Byzantine Emperor Alexius (1081-1118) who pleaded with the Christians of Western Europe for help, adding that if they did not defend themselves now, they would surely be overwhelmed in near future. The Pope called the Council of Clement to resist and push back Islamists. Thus was triggered the Crusade.

FIRST CRUSADE (1095-99)

Thousands of wealthy knights took a vow of the cross and prepared for war abandoning all else to undertake the crusade as a part of the penitence. Pope Urban II presented the course of action before the crusaders. One, to rescue Eastern Christians, two, recover the Holy Land (Jerusalem) from Muslim occupation, and, three, secure holy land for pilgrims. Blessed by the pope, the crusaders regarded themselves as on military expedition to perform righteous acts hoping to receive entrance to heaven with the battle cry "God With It" and banners with cross, and hope to receive martyrdom, if they died. The first crusade was without leaders, supply lines and strategy. Many warriors died on the battlefield. The crusade was a disaster. Fifty thousand 'despicable' soldiers descended on Constantinople, they were loathed by people. But two good things turned up: In 1095, the crusaders succeeded in restoring Nice and the major centre of Antioch to Christian rule and over twenty years they captured Jerusalem and set up four states in Levant.

SECOND CRUSADE (1145-49)

When the Turks and Kurds conquered Edissa, European Christians showed enthusiasm for another crusade. This time the crusade was led by two Christian kings, Louis VII of France and Conrad of Germany and was blessed by Bernard of Clanvaux. Most of the soldiers on way to Palestine were killed and those who made up attacked Muslim Damascus which had been an ally of Christians. The crusade had no effect against growing Muslim power. By now the crusade had become a society-wide effort. Everyone was called on to help-knights to sacrifice wealth and life to defend Christian East, and those left behind at home were to rally support by prayer, fasting and alms-giving. But Muslims had grown stronger under Saladin (Salauddin) who turned the Muslim Near East into a single entity. In 1187 in the Battle of Actin, he wiped out Christian armies and captured the relic of the True Cross and Christian cities. Jerusalem surrendered.

THIRD CRUSADE (1201-04)

The third crusade was led by three warriors- Emperor Frederic I of Germany, Philip II Augustine of France, and Richard I, Lion Heart of England. Frederic was drowned when he was crossing a river, his army returned home. While Philip and Richard constantly argued, the situation in Palestine worsened. However, Philip captured Acre but left for home. Richard led the army from victory to victory and conquered entire Levant coast. But his assault on Jerusalem did not succeed and after two abortive attempts he gave up, promising to return. Richard and Saladin discussed the matter. Richard agreed to terms that ensured peace in the region and free access to Jerusalem to unarmed pilgrims.

FOURTH CRUSADE

A feud that broke out between East and West provided diversion in support of imperial claimant Alexius Angelus on his promise to make generous rewards and support to the Holy Land. But once on throne, Alexius refused to abide by his promise. In 1204, the crusaders captured Constantinople and brutally sacked it, forgetting that Christian fighting

Christian was grotesque and perversion of crusading idealism. Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) excommunicated the entire crusade and closed Orthodox churches.

LATER CRUSADES

Despite Pope's directive, regular traffic of warriors, pilgrims and traders continued to ply between Europe and the Holy Land. The crusades ended only in 1270, leaving behind vicious feelings between Christians and Muslims. By 1291 the crusaders were evicted by Muslim forces, the crusaders lost all kingdoms and had no foothold in the region. Between 13th and 16th centuries, the Muslim kingdoms became powerful. The Ottoman Turks conquered Muslim kingdoms and united Islamic territories. Moving westwards, they captured Constantinople and reached deep into Europe. Europeans feared that if the Muslim forces were not resisted, they might achieve their proclaimed goal of world conquest. In 1480 Sultan Mahmud captured Otranto and planned to capture Italy. But before he could move, he died. In 1529 Suleman the Magnificent (1494-1560) destroyed Vienna but rainstorm forced him to retrace leaving much of his artillery behind. Then in 1571 a European Holy League defeated the Ottoman fleet at Lepanto which brought Muslim power to a halt. (In fact Lepanto proved the turning point. Christian forces also neutralized and failed to get a foothold in the region. In the 19th century the Muslim threat neutralized economically and Europe grew in wealth and power, while the Turks remained backward and no longer in a position to go offensive.

Crusade and Jihad, both curses on humanity, are obstructions to humanity that were almost forgotten events before 9.11.2001. (An enlightened Indian, B.K. Rao compared these to Raktabeej that will never meet doom, adding that some red line has to be drawn even though it might not work. Both are a sort of false romantic drama that ends in brutality - death or its infliction. Both were resorted to enforce a promise to stop conflict but related to retaliatory, bizarre, painful inhuman activities that were caused by mutual hatred of two religions. A crusade aimed at retrieval of sacred places where the revelations to

Jesus Christ had occurred or were connected with Prophet Mohammad who ascended from there to meet Allah.

Islam posed prime challenge to Christianity. In Muslim ruled places Christians resisted Muslim efforts at conversion. But whenever a Muslim wanted to be reconverted into Christianity, Muslim clerics cried apostasy and did not hesitate to use violence, and protested that conversion was against tenets of the Quran. A Muslim who spoke in favor of conversion was declared apostate and paid with his life.

The three main religions of the Middle East - Judaism, Christianity and Islam- were the consequence of revolts against the existing faiths. Judaism was revolt against paganism, Christianity against Judaism, and Islam against tribalism. However, these religions shared some commonalties e.g. Abraham is regarded as ancestor and prophet and Jerusalem is held sacred each wanting its exclusive possession. Sharp differences arose when Muslims claimed that Mohammad was Messenger of Allah and a rank superior to Christ. Muslims believe that the New Testament was falsified by Christians to deny the affirmation of Quran that Islam is divine and revealed and that Allah made Islam superior to all other religions and that these affirmations of Quran were denied by Christians by falsifying the New Testament. Christians deny making any revision in the scriptures.

[Background to Arab control in Middle East: When the Roman Empire had disintegrated, the Byzantine occupied Palestine and wielded power over the eastern Mediterranean and North African coasts, they came in conflict with the Parsees of Iran. The Byzantines destroyed the Ghassanid kingdom of Syria and annexed it to their Empire. In 602 the Iranians subjugated the Lakhamid kingdom of Syria. Twelve years later they captured Jerusalem and took away the Judaic cross. In a melee the Church of Sepulcher was destroyed. At this stage Mohammad was born in Arabia and he established the state of Medina, cleared it of Pagans, Jews and Christians. Mohammad died in 632. In 636 the Arabs defeated the Parsees (of Iran) and annexed the Iranian Empire. Next, they defeated the Byzantine and annexed its provinces of Syria and Palestine. The Muslim-

Christian relations converged; in Damascus both said prayers in the church. Latter the Muslims converted the church building into mosque for their exclusive use. For a thousand years Muslims were powerful but were weakened by long confrontations with Christian powers.]

[In the 20th century after the First World War, Muslim power was further weakened. Kamal Ataturk abolished the caliphate. The Second World War gave birth to a few Muslim states, beside Israel, and two power blocks. Muslim states joined either the Western Block or the Soviet Block as it suited them. And, surprisingly the fundamentalists, El Qaida, in spite of receiving U.S. help, turned against the West and on 9.11.2001 in an air attack killed three thousand men and women and destroyed precious properties in USA. In 2014, Boko Haram, a conservative Muslim group abducted 300 girls from a school in Algeria, made an effort to abduct wife of Nigeria's Muslim Deputy Prime Minister and to capture and carve out a state. These are the CRUSADES of Boko Haram and ISIS styles.

Islam has unique qualities: While Mohammad is revered by all Muslims and provides an overall umbrella to all Muslims of the world, it also gives them leave to fight amongst themselves. But when a Muslim state or sect is attacked by any non-Islamic power, they all join to protest and express solidarity with the invaded Islamic state. And, what is queer is that they stand unconcerned even when the invader is a Muslim state and they don't mind seeking help from non-Islamic state (s) which are otherwise derided as Kafir.

Christians observe different norms. Beside selfish interest, they are guided by diplomacy of its own type. Before 19th century they had stood together on religious grounds against an enemy of different persuasion. In this Hindu potentates saw no harm but regretted when they were suddenly attacked.

Ignorance and superstition are devoid of reasoning. The perpetrators of superstition, shrewd as they were, got away scot-free after mongering rumor. They were responsible for inflicting Inquisitions that caused pain on innocents and surprisingly the Inquisitors got away scot free. Some of the constitutionalists who in the name of equal rights and democracy, surprisingly justify and support homo-sexuality and same sex marriage etc and destroy the sanctity of scripture are akin to them. A crusade by humanists against such aberrations would have helped the society, which the perpetrators avoided doing.

In Europe Renaissance brought enlightenment and reforms. Within a span of three centuries the reformers ushered in four revolutions and two world wars that changed the international scenario. The fruits of Enlightenment became visible first in Germany. in the light of modern knowledge, An effort was made to strip Christianity of its supernatural elements and the Bible of its errors and contradictions. The rationalists expressed doubts about the events like Noah's ark. Darwin's theory of evolution showed the Christian faith in poor light and contradicted 7-day Genesis etc.

During the Renaissance and Enlightenment, the Roman Catholic Church confronted demands for reforms and faced revolt against absolute rule and called for defining traditional values. The Church responded by tightening its belt. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) whittled away papacy's rights of intervention and its rule over the church. To protect the faith, Pope Benedict XIV (1740 – 1758) negotiated concords. The Catholic monarchs of France, Portugal and Spain were criticized for ignoble treatment of humanity. People's discontent could not be ignored and Pope Clement XIV dissolved the Society of Jesus and kept distance from enlightenment, revolutionary politics, and egalitarian atmosphere that undermined traditional Catholicism.

The three revolutions in mid-19th century – American, French and German, and one in the 20th century –the Marxist Revolution

wrought great many discoveries which brought significant changes in the world. But in the 20th century at almost the same time there was great economic depression which the vested interests as seekers and preservers of traditions of nationalism, militarism and monarchism ignored rather than making socio-economic reforms. [Revolution is an advanced stage of religion-based political crusade. It is abrupt political overthrow or seizure of power brought about from or within a given system. Revolution also stands for activities that affect basic changes in an economic structure.]

AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Since the second half of 20th century USA is the richest and the most powerful country and it considers itself as the most secular nation in the world. This was the dream of the Pilgrims and Puritans who had emigrated to America after the discovery of the new lands by Columbus in 1492 and after crossing the Atlantic. (Four centuries prior to this, a Norse – Viking- sailor, Leif Ericson had reached North America but it made no impact.) After Columbus, Europeans made a bee-line to the New World to exploit its resources and lead a life of religious freedom. The natives, and the African slaves brought by them became victim of the diseases that Europeans had brought with them. The persecuted immigrants had no religious freedom and to escape persecution, achieve freedom and make commercial gain, in 1609 a group of Pilgrims left England for Holland but they considered the Dutch frivolous and travelled to the New World. The group was financed by a group of English merchant adventurers under an agreement that the pilgrims would be given passage and supplies in exchange for their work for seven years. On September 6, 1620 the pilgrims set sail on a ship called Mayflower with 44 pilgrims who called themselves Saints and others Strangers. After 65 days when they sighted a land, the two groups worked out a Mayflower compact which gave them equality. They established the first colony at Jamestown (Virginia) and the second at Plymouth. In 1630 they founded another colony at Massachusetts Bay. The Rhodes Island became a colony of labor. William Penn established Pennsylvania as a refuge for Quackers. Roman Catholics settled in Maryland. In 18th century

they brought Baptists and Methodists to USA. The pilgrims celebrated the first thanksgiving. (This is now annually celebrated all over USA.) To reform church, they devised Mayflower compact. In the new lands the local climate decided what each colony could to develop its economy. Boston was a major port and much of its economy developed around sea trade. Southern colonies could support large scale agriculture and plantation system to develop single cash crops that could be sold and consumed. The work was labor- intensive, and they brought labor indentured servants who agreed to provide several years of service in exchange for passage to North America. This opened way for inhuman slave trade which existed from 16th to 19th century.

Religion was at the centre for many settlers. The church groups were Anglican, Puritan, Calvinist and Catholics. The Catholics founded the colony of Maryland and baptized people. During the early 17th century a wave of religious fervor rose. Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield emphasized Calvinist teachings, namely eternal damnation, mercy of God and salvation. While the Northern Colonies were established for religious reasons, the Southern colonies were for commercial gains and the clash between the North and South would be the cause of American Revolution.

In America the mercantile European communities believed that the power of a state was based on its ability to minimize the importance of foreign goods but England had monopolized its colonial trade with other countries and placed heavy taxes on trade goods. The English policies and actions angered the colonists. Feeling threatened by the French colonial settlements, the colonists fought 7-year War over trade rights. Both the French and the English enlisted support of Native Americans. The French lost many of their territories to Britain. As the war proved costly for the English, they asked the colonists to share defense costs which the American-European settlers declined as they were, they said, not responsible for the war and did not need British laws for protection. The British Prime Minister Grenville Townsend passed stricter laws for sugar and stamps which burdened the colonists and they protested 'No taxation without representation' and burnt stamps. Britain repealed the

taxes but declared that the mother country could tax colonists in any way they thought suitable. This was not acceptable to the settlers. There were protests and violence. The British killed five civilians which led to the famous Boston Tea Party. It became a historic site and it is a popular tourist spot. Britain closed the harbor. The Charter of Massachusetts was revoked, elected officials were replaced with royal employees and Bostonians were forced to feed and lodge the soldiers. The infuriated colonists called the First Continental Congress in 1774 which was attended by representatives of all colonies. They decided to boycott English goods but they did not expect this would lead to a military action and separation of colonies from England and to the American Revolution for Independence. A new government was created under Jefferson. The Constitution gave religious freedom to all but preferential treatment to none. What was started as a trade crusade for freedom of religion and business by Americans against England, the American Catholics would achieve their goal and practice their religion freely.

During 1775, a second Congress was to meet with the objective of creating a new state of USA when skirmishes broke out between Colonists and Redcoats (British force). Efforts were made for reconciliation but these failed. The 1776 Revolution heralded a new era for Catholics. General Washington led the American troops against great odds. The French supported the American army which won the Battles of Sara Toga and York Town. The American Revolution heralded a new era for Catholics.

The American Independence was established by the Treaty of Paris. (In 1781 the Articles of Confederation were ratified. But the work was ineffective. They could not raise tax and the central government was broke. Anyway the problem was solved and hard work and keeping away from European politics brought Americans prosperity and peace.

The American Revolution heralded a new era for Catholics. It created a new government to give freedom to all religions but gave preferential treatment to none. The state had peace under Thomas Jefferson, and John Caroli (1735-1815) and the Bishop of the largest diocese of

Baltimore. They defended the Revolution and saw to it that American Catholics practiced their religion, supported freedom of religion and Catholicism did not disappear from USA. More Catholics emigrated from Europe to America and the number of schools, athletic leagues and publishers increased rapidly. The affect is felt even now.

American Independence encouraged many colonial peoples to demand and fight for independence. A movie about the Battle of Gettysburg depicted the dedication of one man, Lincoln to abolish slavery from USA. Lincoln was devoted to the cause. (There was surprise for us – our friend, M. B. Lal presented us in Delhi his excellent publication "Going Back to Gettysburg- Autobiography of a Corrupt Indian". Lincoln's crusade was against racism, inequality and slavery. The impact of the four revolutions on humanity was immense.

Crusades affected people's life for some time. But the impact of Revolution is huge. The American Revolution pushed France into revolution.

FRENCH REVOLUTION

In France, the church, Bishops and monasteries were mostly wealthy but the lower clergy was poor. In 1789 when the French Revolution broke out, anti-clerical feelings grew strong among people, a large number of priests fled and a few clergy were executed and their properties confiscated. The National Assemblies of the Revolutionaries denied Pope's authority and established a civil constitution to bring the clergy under state control. Pope Pius VI did not criticize the constitution nor did he restore to church its fortune. Helping the Americans win independence had brought the French treasury to the brink of bankruptcy. It also increased the national debt which was largely payable to the wealthier members of the bourgeoisie and the nobility of the robe. The system of taxation was blocked by the nobility and Parliament. In 1787 the nobility, clergy, and administrators met and demanded a dispersion of government powers among provincial assemblies and refused the tax proposals. This opened the way for constitutional reforms for middle classes. Between 1789 and 1799 reforms were introduced in four phases: constitutional monarchy

dominated by bourgeoisie, Provincial rule of Girondins convenion, reign of terror by lower bourgeoisie and working class in Paris. The aristocracy sought the return of their former political and economic privileges; the bourgeoisie wanted government efficiency, social mobility and increased political power; peasantry wanted an end to feudal dues and working class wanted employment and cheaper food.

(A mission was set up at St Lazar that was active in teaching and visiting prisoners.) Revolutionary agitation continued until 1794; programs for change interacted. Bargains were concluded and personal rivalries intervened. These groups clashed in 1793. The Jacobins of Paris took over power. However, Paris had a predominant role in determining the course of Revolution.

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IMPORTANT DATES OF FRENCH REVOLUTION:

1789 June 17 Third Estate declares itself National Assembly

July 14: Bastille taken.

August 4: Abolition of feudal rights.

27: Royal family brought back to Paris.

Nov 2: Confiscation of property of church and nobles.

1791 June 21 Flight of Royal family and arrest at Varenes

1792 August 10 Tulier Palace stormed by Paris mob.

Sept. prisoners massacred in Paris, abolition of monarchy, Republic proclaimed.

1793 Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette executed.

1794 Overthrow of Robespierre, end of reign of terror.

1795 Death of Louis XVII in prison, Oct, 5 Napoleon successful campaign in Italy.

1796 Napoleon's unsuccessful campaign in Italy.

1798 Napoleon's unsuccessful campaign in Egypt.

1799 Napoleon overthrows Directory, and establishes himself First Consul.

1802 Napoleon First Consul for life, and Emperor in Dec. 1805.

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The Pope had made peace with Napoleon and parted with some fortune but refused to give more when he was asked. The Pope was arrested and brought to France where he remained prisoner till the emperor fell from power. In the Vienna Congress in 1810 the state was restored to Pope. Four years afterward Pope restored the Society of Jesus. Pope was identified with the reactionary regimes of Austria, France and Russia. Pope Gregory XVI apprehensive of encroachment of modern civilization did not allow entry of railroad in his state. In 1850 in Europe the Second Empire of Napoleon III was the most powerful state. In 1851-end in a quick coup de tat he overthrew the constitutional system and made himself president for ten years and a year later in a plebiscite made him Emperor of France. He tried to stimulate French economy. He transformed the French banking system to extend credit to new industry, farmers, urban dwellers, railroads and shipping lines. He adopted a policy of free trade, and negotiated treaties of tariff reduction. There was an economic boom. Paris became the tourist capital of Europe. French fashions dictated the style. His intervention in the Crimean war (1853-56) was his greatest triumph in international affairs. This was a prototype of crusade. Russian armies invaded Moldavia and Wallachia to safeguard Orthodox Christians in the Turkish Empire in 1853 and sank a Turkish fleet. Napoleon joined the British and declared war on Russia to prevent Russian hegemony in the Balkans. Half a million people were killed. Russia accepted the Franco-British terms.

GERMAN REVOLUTION

In early 19th century Germany's intellectual life was centered in Weimer where Goethe held sway and Hegel taught (Marx) dialectical materialism and the ironworks and engineering companies were established in Rhineland. But neither industrialization nor political repression nor the unrest that existed could turn the Berliners revolutionaries. To resolve the impasse King William appointed Otto Van Bismarck as the chief minister. Bismarck acted in dual role – liberal as well as progressive - and in nine years he converted Berlin as the capital of German empire, the Second Reich. Bismarck's maxim was 'in Germany pike eats carp''. He harnessed Germany's nationalism and said, "It is not by speeches and military resolutions that the great questions of our time are decided" and to this end he used his adroit mastery. He bought off all forces of democratic revolution and provided Germans all security and protection. But in 1890, William II dismissed Bismarck. That night at dinner Bismarck predicted that William II was 'the man who will certainly ruin the Empire'. Under the New Kaiser, Berlin developed an intellectual and cultural life like that of other European capitals but the Reich government remained under military influence. The question is raised – which was the real Berlin? Was it the Berlin 'of Albert Einstein and Max Planck, of Gerhardt Hauptmann and Stein George, of Max Reinhardt and Oskar Kokoschka? Or was the Berlin of Admiral Tirpitz, Count von Schlieffen, and General von Moltke" real? He asked all creative persons to act on his advice.

MARXIST REVOLUTION

Mid-Nineteenth century is an important period in world history. A pamphlet titled 'The Communist Manifesto' written by Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) theorized 'socialist movement', a theory of history, a materialist philosophy, an economic explanation of class conflict, and a blueprint for a new society whose working class leaders were to get a role in exacerbating class conflict. In his student life, Marx was attracted by Hegelian philosophy. He agreed with Hegel that history is a dynamic process that moves through conflicts. A society produces its opposite and a conflict between the two leads to their

amalgamation (synthesis). This was Hegel's theory of thesis, anti-thesis and synthesis. Hegel thought the Prussian state had realized the absolute idea. But Marx differed and said the dialectical process of history was determined by economic forces, not by abstract ideas. Marx said the method of production dictates social relationship, politics, law, values and beliefs of a society. Medieval society believed in church because it was based on agricultural production and un-free labor; there were two classes- the exploiter and exploited (the ruler and the oppressed). Class conflict arises with change in the means of production and technological changes. The plebeian challenged the patrician. The most important challenge is the attack of the commercial and manufacturing bourgeoisie on the ruling class – an attack of a moneyed class on a landed class. He took up to journalism but censors hounded him out; he fled to London where he met Engels.

Engels provided Marx with the details of factory life, slum conditions, cyclical crises which Marx used in the analysis of the character of the Proletariat. The working class sinks with industrial progress, the labor becomes pauper. He explained worker's poverty by the labor theory of value. A product was only so much congealed labor time. But the capitalists sold the product for several times more than he paid the workers in wages; the capitalist pockets the difference. Because of competition among capitalists, their number is reducing while the size of proletariat was increasing. The crisis in the system was also swelling. Marx said- a time will come when the proletariat will seize power and the working class would set up a dictatorship and there would be a classless society. Institutions like the police would become unnecessary and organs of the government would become superfluous. The power would be used for the benefit of workers. Marx helped set up the First International in London in 1864. He explained his theory in Capital. He quarreled with Michael Bakunin who by violent upheaval and anarchy in the state administration carried out assassinations of leading statesmen - President of France in 1894, prime minister of Spain in 1897, Empress of Austria in 1898, king of Italy in 1900, and president of USA in 1901. Anarchists dominated the anti-Fascist forces during the Spanish civil war (1936-39).

In 1917 the Bolsheviks seized power. They considered the Church as defender of the old regime and separated Church from State. The Communist Government declared freedom of religion and leashed out anti-religion propaganda. The Soviet Union claimed religious toleration. However, the churches and monasteries were demolished and used as warehouses and recreational centers. In 1922 priests and worshippers were arrested for refusal to hand over the assets. Stalin wiped out the Orthodox Church, the Lutheran church and seminaries. In 1927 Metropolitan Surgius accepted the legitimacy of the new government. During World War II relations between church and state improved. But during 1950 and 1964 Nikita Khrushchev adopted hard line and closed many churches. (These were opened in 1988) and glasnost church and state developed friendly relations. Pope Paul II created a Catholic diocese. In 2006 Russia had 26600 churches, 688 monasteries and seminaries. Smaller groups like Baptists have become active.

WORLD WARS

WW I

By 1907 Europe was divided into two war camps. France and Russia had concluded an Entente Cordiale and Britain and Russia had made a pact. Europe's statesmen thought that they had concluded a genuine balance of power that would guarantee peace. About the Franco-Russian Alliance, German Emperor Kaiser warned his cousin Tsar Nicholas of Russia, 'Heaven has imposed a sacred duty' on Christian kings and emperors – 'to uphold the divine right of kings.' The imperial powers aspired to do better than others. The French aspired to control African coast. In the Balkans Austria and Russia moved closer to each other. A Young Turk revolutionary threatened to modernize Turkey and reassert Turkish power. In 1912 crisis erupted in Balkans which caused tension between Russia and Austria. The war was finally precipitated by the murder of the heir to the Austrian throne at Sarajevo in Bosnia by a terrorist trained in Serbia. Austria Government gave an ultimatum to Serbia that precipitated World War I. Most military leaders of the belligerent powers thought that only war could solve the problem. But

within a month of fighting it became evident that a quick victory was impossible. The Belgian fortress proved no obstacle to the German army. But in the Battle of the Marne, Germans had to retreat in the face of French. Both sides incurred enormous loss. Because of the heavy rains, operations bogged down. Rapid movement turned into a slogging match between entrenched armies. The French suffered 140000 casualties; the German casualties were 650000 casualties. It was a war of attrition. The lines moved only a few miles in the next four years. The stalemate was the result of enormous losses on both sides. Germany faced immediate shortage of raw materials, and food supplies; to meet the shortage they had home production with the aid of chemical fertilizers, made rationing universal. It made military conscription, and to meet labor shortage enlisted the support of women who did multifarious jobs like making cartridge belts, driving buses, acting as ticket collector, delivering mail, working in arms factories, running farms. The most important new belligerent was USA; it declared war on Germany in April 1917 after Germany began submarine warfare against neutral ships entering the war zone around Britain. American supplies and American soldiers were decisive factors in blunting the last German offensive in the West. Britain introduced tank which penetrated the trench lines. All German fronts collapsed.

The reaction of the German conservative military and business groups was to demand national unity which avoided democratization of power. A majority of Reichstag voted Peace Resolution. In 1918 German military leaders recognized that the war was lost. On November 9 the Kaiser was forced to abdicate. Negotiations were begun with allies for an armistice which was concluded on November 11. A German Republic was declared. Under a Social Democratic chancellor who promised a new beginning, a socialist became a guarantee against social revolution.

W W II

The damage caused in the WORLD WAR II to human life and material was frightening which is perhaps comparable only to the 30-YEAR WAR. At the end of WW II, 100 million people in Europe alone were on the verge of starvation and when one talks of the gains from the War, only US emerged with enhanced resources and undiminished strength. Between 1940 and 1945, 90% of German buildings were destroyed. Populations were damaged in large cities. Twelve million Russians died in war.

German started the Blitzkrieg with Warsaw as the first city to suffer the German aerial and artillery bombardment while on land German tanks made the Polish cavalry totally ineffective and the body of the Polish Army was destroyed. Warsaw fought heroically until September 27. (The Russians had annexed one-third of Poland by September 17 before Norway. The war on German-France border on the Maginot line was phony –a sit down war. In the spring of 1940 Hitler's 136 Division launched attacks on Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. The German bombers stuck at Rotterdam, killing 800 people, made 76000 homeless and destroyed city's treasuries; on the fifth day the Dutch army surrendered. After 18 days fighting, Belgium stopped fighting. The French and British Armies that had rushed to help the Belgians withdrew to Dunkirk and then to Britain. The Germans resumed attack on June 5. The French Generals advised surrender to the Cabinet. The Nazi sympathizers welcomed the invaders in the undefended and abandoned by government. General Petain who became premier sought a ceasefire. Hitler forced French government to sign an armistice that left the general in control of one-third of France. Hitler visited Paris at month's end. Half of city's population had fled as refuges.

In May Winston Churchill was appointed as Britain's prime minister. Hitler authorized invasion of England but Germans found the English planes equipped with radar threw back the German planes. The English bombarded Berlin. In retaliation, the Germans bombarded large British cities. Hitler transferred his troops to Russian front which destroyed industrial cities. Hitler also transferred army to assist Mussolini. In April 1941 Hitler captured Yugoslovakia and Greece. Hitler treated the defeated barbarously.

On June 22 Germany attacked Russia and overran its armies. By December- end German forces moved into suburbs of Leningrad and Moscow. Russian winter came to the aid of Russia and stalled Germans. Stalin mounted a counter attack and drove the Germans 200 miles back. The Russians glimpsed the possibility of German defeat.

In the Pacific Japan attacked U.S. Pacific fleet on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii Islands USA declared war on Japan, Italy and Germany as a part of Tripartite Pact.

In November 1942 USA launched a three pronged attack on French North Africa. De Gaul was made the President of the French government. In Italy Mussolini was deposed but was restored in North Italy. He did not sign surrender for long.

On Russian front Germans stuck up in Stalingrad where they surrendered. The Russian victory was the turning point of war. Some historians believed that the Russian Govt. was responsible for German defeat. By July 1943 the Red Army had taken back Kharkhow and Kiev. Hitler's fortress in Europe had collapsed.

On June 6, 1944, the D-Day vast air force composed of American, British, Canadian and French troops commanded by Dwight Eisenhower struck at beaches of Normandy and surrounded by putting large number of men ashore. By September 1944 most of France was in allied hands and German border was penetrated and several places. Russia captured the Balkans and in Yugoslavia they met General Tito..

Roosevelt and Churchill met with Stalin at Yalta conference in Crimea in February 1945. Eisenhower wanted two concessions from Stalin: one, to agree to details of UNO, and two, Russia to agree to participate in the final stage of war against Japan. Stalin agreed. In 1944 Hitler was strong. His armies had seven million men and he was attacking Britain with rockets. On April 16, Russia attacked Berlin. Berlin surrendered within nine days.

Hitler dictated his last will and testament, married his mistress Eva Braun and on April 30 joined her in suicide. Goebels shot his children and wife and himself. On May 2 Russians raised red flag at Brandenburg

Gate. The final general surrender took place on May 9. In east Japan fought savagely. In the atoll of Iwo Jima, Japan inflicted 27000 casualties on American attackers. Roosevelt died in April and Truman became president and he ordered dropping of atom bomb, which scientists had produced after four years labor. When Japan did not surrender, Truman ordered dropping of another bomb. That fell on Nagasaki. As many as 36000 people were killed. Emperor Hirohito intervened and on April 28, 1945 Japan Government signed an armistice. After six years the guns fell silent. USA was the future.

Peoples of colonies raised their demands for freedom. Their demands for decolonization of Europe's hold were bitterly contested by European powers that were already weakened by nationalist movements of millions of colonial people and during the War were driven out of Asia by Japan, the British from Hong Kong, Malaya and Burma, the Dutch from Indonesia, the French from Indochina. With the withdrawal of Japanese in 1945, liberation movements had taken these in their hands. USA had agreed that they would leave the Philippines after the War. The British Labor government that came in power in 1945 with the goal of giving independence to Britain's colonial possessions because they had found the colonies as liabilities. In West Asia the Transjordan became free in 1946. The British quit India after partitioning the country in 1947. Palestine was divided between Arabs and Jews in 1948. France gave independence to its colonies (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia in Africa. The Belgians and the Portuguese resisted quitting the colonies. The Belgians were forced to leave Congo after U.N. intervention. The Portuguese too left Angola, Mozambique, Guinea by 1975. (They were forced to leave Goa, in India, despite the support of West.)After 1975 the Spanish withdrew from the Spanish Sahara. It was unfortunate that the USA intervened in the process of decolonization to prevent the spread of communism.

The world was totally changed a place. After the end of the War transportation, communication and electricity had to be restored for economic reconstructed. A 4-year Marshal Plan prepared a scheme for reconstruction of European countries. The Plan did miracles for economic boom and modernization. (Russia and East European countries

did not agree with the plan.) Robert Schuman suggested pooling of coal and steel resources for creating a European Union but its political repercussions were disappointing. (After several decades a European Union is functioning successfully.) Great social changes occurred in rural areas, especially for women. Birth control and abortion were approved in some countries but denied in others. Women were employed in larger numbers in many countries. Yet women suffer from discriminations. Women are crusading for their improvements in various spheres. Urbanization has increased. Individual is now receiving greater attention in the understanding of religion, society, science and aesthetics..

IRANIAN REVOLUTION

Iranian revolution (late 1970s) was a religious movement headed by a religious figure. It was a political reminder to world's religious leaders that religion was a powerful part of social political reforms and can shape the history of science and technology; it could also be perceived as backward and outdated. Western civilization espouses fundamental values and principalities namely human rights, religious freedom, social tolerance and rule of law. Iranian Revolution stood against these. CONFLICTS BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY ARE NOE ROOTED IN POLITICS, NOT IN RELIGION.

COMMUNICATION REVOLUTION

I recall the thrill of reading an article in 'Nature' (in 1940s) on the future of high speed Railroad transportation. It stated that the new system would reach a passenger over a distance of 2000 miles (from Kolkata to Peshawar) in an hour's time. This so much impressed me that I used to talk about this in my talks on the latest technological developments.

Since 1960 communication systems have undergone remarkable changes. Communication speed has affected the working efficiency and improved financial conditions of people. But the innovations have brought some operational complications as exposed by whistle blowers Assange and Snowden on secret government machinations.

PART II

1.0 A CYCLE OF CRUSADES – FOR & AGAINST (Illustrative)

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1.2 Self- Healing-Krishna Gutala

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3.1 A CYCLE OF CRUSADES

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Acknowledgements

1.0 A CYCLE OF CRUSADES

ADAGES, like 'History repeats itself', inform, entertain and inspire people. They arouse Inquisitiveness in man to understand the event, interpret it in terms of the present and check its veracity. Crusade is such an adage. The terrorist attack on New York in 2001 which affected world conscience was termed crusade. Its crispness in reference to Afghanistan it was called Afghan crusade. One of the most important crusades- Palestinean crusade occurred in 12th century. (That very time India faced an Islamic crusade by Mohammad Gazanavi.)

The Jihad of 1839-the First Afghan War-has been compared to the crusade of 2001 by historian William Dalrymple. The First Afghan War (1838-42) was planned in Calcutta with the motive of defending India's territorial integrity and was fought with Indian soldiers. An army of the East India Company crossed Sutlej in the spring of 1839 and entered Afghanistan without facing much resistance. They stayed there for two years during which period the regime was changed and Shah Shuja was reestablished on the throne. (Shuja was the grandson of Ahmad Shah Abdali who had looted Delhi.) After two years, the Indian army began to return leaving behind 10000 soldiers when the Afghans declared Jihad, and Afghanistan exploded in rebellion. The British army met the greatest disaster in which the Indians suffered the most for the British mistakes. In a pass 1500 sepoys stripped of their goods were left to freeze to death in the snow. Enslaved, the sepoys died while the British officers got free on payment of ransom. Men and women were sold Rs.46 and Rs 24 each respectively.

The British had spent on the war 5 billion pounds and lost 50000 camels. (On both sides of the Hindukush the caravan routes were controlled by the Sindhi and Shikarpuri merchants and Indian Sadhus and traders visited holy places and bazaars in Afghanistan.)

At the time of invading Afghanistan in 2001, the western leaders thought they could step in Afghanistan, change the regime and be out in a couple of years. It is just a coincidence that the U.S. Army is planning to leave 10000 soldiers as many as the British had left while

quitting Afghanistan. The two crusades are, however, not be alike as the American soldiers are better equipped to fight their way out, if need be. Critically examined, it will be found that such incidents-crusades- have beeb periodic. Jesus Christ experienced crusade, apostles faced crusade. Pope Innocent III planned crusade to secure Palestine and authorized crusade against heretics. Such incidents have transpired in every century. In 3rd century there was a dispute about the divinity of Jesus- being son of God. 4th century witnessed crusade in favor of Christianity when the Roman Emperor Constantine declared Christianity state religion. Barbaric attacks on Rome were crusades. These were followed by Islamic invasions on Roman territories. The crusade of 2001 was sequential.

1.1 HEALTH CARE by Harikrishna Mazmundar

'Bread, clothing and house', this dream-desire remained with common man long and is unrealized even today. In the 21st century the prices of food items, clothes and land have skyrocketed and are unimaginatively high. Man-made recession and natural calamities, like floods, tornados and earthquakes aggravate the situation. The social scientists, it appears forgot to include in his dream-desire two equally important wishes-health and education that concern the entire humanity. Even the most affluent western countries have not been successful in solving the problems of health. Some developed countries have worked out and set model for health benefits for their citizens, four of these models are prominent. These are: One, Bismarck, it operates in Germany, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Japan and Latin America where private entities offer health care and providers have no profit motive; the Insurance Plans of these countries are financed jointly by employers and employees through payroll deductions to meet the cost of medical services while the system regulates the fees; Two, Beveridge model pursued in the United Kingdom, Italy , Portugal, Spain, Skandanavian countries, Hong Kong, Cuba and U.S.A.'s Veteran Affairs Department. The scheme is financed by Government through tax payment; there are no medical bills; Three, National Health Insurance model followed in Canada, Taiwan and South Korea. Government run Insurance pays monthly premium to private providers. Four: Out of Pocket System in poor countries with no health

care system. The basic rule is simple: the rich get medical care, the poor stay sick or die.

In USA the medical authorities reviewed the four medical models but found them unworkable in USA for several reasons - the systems are socialized, resources are limited, waiting lists are bloated and profit-making health insurance companies. The fact is that new health care proposals run into roadblocks created by corporate interests of pharmaceutical companies, medical companies, insurance industry, groups of doctors, and politicians who care more for the interest of the wealthy.

In USA, one-half of consumer cost of hospitalization is met by Medicare and the rest half by payments from prescription drugs, preventive services and examinations by Medicaid (Medical) and Medicare in four parts, namely Parts A to D. In addition to these there are other factors- the insurance and drug manufacturing companies and the Wall Street who are interested in maintaining status quo. Moreover, the Republican conservatives are against bringing in any change. However, the American citizens are now realizing that compared to people of other countries they get less and inferior treatment for more money they pay. The Republican approach is odd inasmuch as in USA per capita expenditure is at top. Yet the Obama Care was savagely criticized by the Republicans. Even so it fares poor compared to what UK or France provides their people.

Obama Care follows the Bismarck model for people below 65 years, both the worker and employer share the premium towards the health insurance policy. The insurer picks up most of the expenditure for treatment while the patient makes a co-payment or pays a percentage. The USA follows the British system in case of Native Americans, military personnel and veterans. The doctors are government employees; people over 65 get both Medicare and Medical benefits as in Canada. (Americans with end-stage renal diseases get the benefit regardless of age. For forty five million Un- covered Americans the out of pocket model is the only recourse.

Health Expenditure percentage (2o11): USA-17.9; UK-9.3; France-11.6; Japan -9.3. Out of pocket expenditure % of total spending; USA-14.7; UK-3.1; India-82.1; China-59.9)

[A doctor friend who does not want to be named observes: The medicines your doctor prescribes for you in good faith could end up harming you much more than helping you because for the suitability of medicines doctors rely on the recommendations of medical associations and professional bodies. The Pharma industry thrives on fear –imaginary demons - to boost up sales of a particular drug. An American neuro-scientist, Dr David Diamond opines about SATIN-based drugs for cholesterol that the drug lowers cholesterol but its adverse effects may also be there e.g. cramps, muscular dystrophy brain function impairment and loss of memory. Then why do doctors prescribe and patients pop up? May be doctors and those in their care have themselves been brainwashed? May be they fear the devil Cholesterol that may be exorcised by satin. Dr Diamond's advice is: reduce the level of cholesterol through exercise and diet. Vitamins and tonic supplement too fall in the same category for these are not needed if you have a well balanced diet. An Alternate Medicine Expert comments: consumption is a process through which people accept subject positions and assert their identities. Our desires are constructed externally and through consumption we internalize them.]

1.2 SELF HEALING by Dr Krishna Gutala Ph.D.

Good health depends on perfect physical balance, smooth functioning of various systems and free energy circulation, in short a good psycho-somatic state. The body has its own protective system which is acquired through activity, rest, stress control, proper use of vitamins and herbs, and body-mind interventions. The existing medical practices focus on 'disease and treatment' and not on healing potential for the maintenance of health of unified body and mind'.

The DNA (which has within it all information needed for manufacture and repair of enzymes) recognizes damages and neutralizes effects of

serious injury and directs moment-to-moment corrections to damages to enable body's normal functioning. Healing is spontaneous. The psycho-somatic effects of infections, toxic injury caused by matter and energy, and unhealthy status of mind are protected by direct exercise and supplements of vitamins and minerals. The brain influences internal functions of body viz immune system, nervous system, digestion and circulation.

The life style of man involves risks of contacting common diseases; at the same time it affects body's healing system that requires balanced diet. Non-veg. food should have controlled in-take of saturated fat; in veg.-diet control carbohydrates and protein calories from dairy products and mono-unsaturated oils. Man requires each day 60 to 90 grams of protein for maintenance and repair of tissue–deficiency of protein stunts growth. The veg. protein is provided by milk products, beans, nuts and grains and animal protein is provided by meat and eggs. Avoid raw and uncooked eggs and egg yolk which have fat and cholesterol. Almonds, nuts, sunflower seeds, soya beans protect man against prostate cancer, and woman from breast cancer, heart diseases and common ailments. Prefer fresh fruit (to tinned or canned fruit) and dark leafy greens which have beta-carotene helpful in healing. Fiber helps in digestion and bowel movement. Brown bread and brown rice are better than white bread, white rice varieties are better in healing process. Use of tonics like garlic, ginger, green tea is recommended. Eliminate toxins. For efficient urinary, gastro-intestinal, respiratory and skin systems drink enough boiled, filtered water. Also take note of the following: exercise (walking is the best exercise), avoid pollution, artificial sweeteners, chemical dyes and alcohol. Use microwave for heating, not for cooking. Give body night's rest. Avoid anxiety, sadness and fear. Meditate, it breaks addiction, Pranayam (breathing exercise) lowers B.P. and is good for health.

1. 3: A CRUSADER'S Victory: Satish K. Jalota

[Thanks to Naturopathy, the determination helped me overcome and win almost a lost battle against a serious ailment. He came back to normal life. The story of his crusade in his own words:]

During my research spread over three decades in USA, at the peak of my professional career, unknowingly I compromised with slowly simmering low back pain. In August 2008 the pain became intolerable and I became virtually a cripple, I underwent a tri level open low back surgery in a hospital in San Jose, CA, which no doubt brought me relief from pain but left my L5 nerve damaged and left foot almost dropped, partially paralytic. The blood circulation was unsatisfactory and improvement was not perceptible. The left leg and left foot and hold started losing muscle mass. below the knee it became thin. The left toe would not rise, the foot remained swollen and hung like a broken stick. Apprehensive of losing the foot, I had nightmares. Acting on my surgeon's advice, I placed an L-shaped metal brace in my left shoe and walked with a can scanner and a handicap sticker to park. My condition worsened. Yet I did not want to be looked upon as a handicap and I firmed up that I must get way.

In 2011 for six months I got treatment from a South Korean Dynamic Acupuncture Facility at Santa Clara. Minor sensation returned in my left foot and I could walk a bit. The family physician encouraged me to search for other conservative therapies. The search took me in July to take a week long treatment at the Naturopathic Panchakarma Treatment(Centre) of the Dhanavantari College of Ayurvedic Hospital, at Chandigarh (India). I felt better and returned to USA. The next year I visited India for two months I was treated for two weeks at the Kerala Panchakarma Centre in Mohali (Chandigarh) and later at the Patanjali Yoga Peeth and Yoga Gram Retreat in Hardwar and at their advice for I went back there in June 2013 and received three-week treatment and nine days stay to learn the natural and disciplined way of ,life. I learned the modalities of natural treatment: early rise, body cleansing techniques, Yoga, breathing exercises, group therapies, control over diet etc. The treatment had a beneficial effect. The swelling in my left foot subsided and strength returned to my left leg and foot. I cast off the metal foot brace. Now I walk without cane. Daily in the morning I walk one mile and go to gym for two hours. Thanks to naturopathy I have returned to my regular life.

1.4 MODERN TREATMENT by Jagdeesh Rustagi Ph.D.

I have passed almost nine years without ever staying a night in hospital. Therefore, I feel frustrated that I have to make frequent visits to a doctor's office which is full of poignancy as in the hospital I am reminded of the passing away of many of my friends and for the departed souls for heavenly abodes are so charming and cozy that we don't hear from them. I am overwhelmed when I see havocs and curses of the aging process. After all the old age is enmeshed with the possibilities of heart attack, stroke. Cancer and dementia through preventive strategies give hope and courage to face and overcome the ailments. One of the strategies that I apply keeps me busy even though I have to tread on a lonely path. Rabindranath Tagore's poem ekla chalo rey inspires me. As one grows old aches and pains also grow. These keep on reminding him of his age. During the past few years whenever my asthma flared up, I took the prescribed medicines. But the medicines affected so much my voice that I found difficulty in pronouncing the words.

My primary care physician recommended a pulmonologist to take care of my lungs. After Chest x-rays and lungs CT scan he put me on medicines which I took faithfully. It is now years. When I complained of no improvement, the specialist recommended that I should visit a neurologist. The specialist found no neurological problem and recommended me to a super specialist. He found the effect of aging on my vocal chords. (After keeping up with several appointments with the speech therapist at the Rehabilitation Services of one of the top Hospitals in the Bay Area, I find no improvement in my speech. In her diagnostic advice the speech therapist expressed her suspicion that as the muscles of the vocal chords and swallowing are the same, there should be some wrong with the swallowing muscles. With a radiologist, she took a video of my muscles while drinking sodium barium solution and identified it as aspiration, treatment for which I am awaiting. I find I am now caught in the clutches of doctors. The basic problem of my asthma, constant cough and hoarseness of speech can be solved by the joint efforts of experts. We have all forgotten that body has a fantastic ability to cure some ailments by itself overtime and some of them disappear automatically.

(This article has been reproduced from JATPAT.)

(Prof. Jagdeesh Rustagi, an eminent statistician, passed away in September 2014.)

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"The world is a cathedral; hallowed and ordained. For man the human body is a sacrament that provides him a world view." Nature sustains all life and offers him with a panoramic view of life which he must protect in his own interest. The elements of nature are connected with social problems that are solved with cooperative and collective efforts.

2.1 CRUSADE AGAINST SLAVERY

A curse to humanity, slavery was in vogue amongst Christians and Muslims in times gone by. They took it to places wherever they went as preachers or invaders or traders. The Muslims as invaders enslaved the vanquished who were used as commodities that could be bought and sold in market at the owner's whim to the highest bidder. They were used mostly as helpers in families but could be put on to any other job the master wanted to be done. They were brought, male and female and children in large numbers from African coasts by traders from European countries. Colonizers took them to the newly discovered Western countries. They were harnessed in farms for securing higher yields and were treated rather inhumanly. Their pathetic stories evoked the sympathies of people but the hearts of the priesthood remained untouched. Thanks to Wilberforce and other liberals who took up their cause and stood up against the inhuman practice and saw to it that laws were enacted to curb the nefarious practice of slavery.

In USA the pathetic condition of African workers drew the attention of intelligentsia and became the subject matter of fiction. Toni Morrison, a Noble prize winning (1993) Afro-American female describes in her novel "MERCI" the pathetic condition of the Afro-American female-how a slave mother working with her Catholic Maryland master saved her

8-year old daughter (Florence) from slavery by giving her away as a part-payment of a bad debt for a plantation owner to an Anglo-Dutch trade adventurer in north (America) who had incurred a tragedy and lost a slave trade in Angola. 'The 8-year old had hands of a slave girl and the feet of a Portuguese lady.' (The sale of the commodity called 'nigger' was completed.) The miracle happened when the buyer responded to take Florence. The message of 'Mercy' is giving 'dominion over other is a hard thing, to wrest dominion over another is a wrong thing'.

For Whiteman, all non-Whites were 'nigger', derogatory undoubtedly. The much respected German scholar Friedrich Max Muller was unrepentant in saying, "The Indian Niggers could not be clubbed with the Greeks and Romans." It was a wrongly placed analogy, a disgrace for a scholar, which he had made under pressure of the British imperialists. For the Greek and Roman god's manual work was menial work-he who did manual work was menial. The Roman Nobles prided in being master of slaves. The Greek agriculture and business throve and prospered with the psycho-somatic exertions of serfs and that was why Roman citizens prided in acquiring one or more slaves. Even so while most of the Greeks were on marginal subsistence, and the slaves could not look forward to economic advancement as a reward for his\her labor. In 350 BCE, Greek economist Xenophone put forward a scheme before the Athenian Council that proposed maintenance of every Greek citizen by the state chiefly from revenue that would accrue from public-owned slaves working in the mines. Slaves could be clerks, policemen and attendants but could not hold public offices, nor could they join as warriors. The author of Oceanomica says a slave's life consisted of work, punishment, food, flogging and torture that enabled the Roman citizens to lead aristocratic life.

(Wealthy Hindus in ancient times had servants at home for which they were niggardly paid but they were shabbily treated as slaves. They had also evolved an evil practice of 'Devadasi' (female dancers) in temples to please the divinities but that degenerated and the dancing girls were misused by priests and the rich. The girls were from poor and low caste Hindu families.)

Improving the lot of slaves was often talked about but that was a hollow intellectual exercise. Their demands were to cancel debts to the slaves and redistribute lands to help slaves but the citizens never freed the poor servants. The Demos (common men) had power for namesake. Slaves provided help in rowing in fleet and for their labor they were given free admission in theatre. But no demagogue ever suggested freedom for working class or as an anti-slavery measure. Pity the common man could not make a common cause. To the contrary after the Peloponnesian war, Athens and Sparta concluded a treaty according to which should the slaves rebel, the Athenians would assist the Spartans to suppress rebellion. Later once a way slaves were freed but the institution of slavery survived. In 1885, an ex-US Slave, Frederic Douglas wrote, "Beat and cut off your slaves. Keep them hungry and spiritless and he will follow the chain of his master like a dog; but feed and clothe him with physical comfort, dream of freedom will intrude. Give him a good master and he wishes to be his own master." But finally their conscience pricked and the Westerners did away with the inhuman slavery.

In India employing a servant for household work is a matter of prestige for families. In the West most middle class families do their household work by themselves because the mechanical and electrical appliances make the work less cumbersome. In India to make the help economical, part time servant is employed which is good for both the part time master and the part time servant. Female workers in offices and factories have evolved methods to manage the work in the office and to look after the children and sundry other work at home. Of course, this is possible with the cooperation of the master of the house. It is surprising that Indian residents abroad want the same type of help as was available to them in India, and for this they find ways to bring help from their country. They are aware of heavy expenses incurred on 'servant'. In fact their own earnings and perks are not sufficient to pay the servant at the rate of the country of posting. Serious difficulties, including legal complications, can at times arise.

In 2014 there occurred an unfortunate incident involving one,

Devyani Khobargade, India's Dy. Consul General in USA. She had brought with her a female aide from India, with a written agreement. She was provided with living space and food and was treated properly and a monthly stipend, pretty decent from Indian standards but not adequate from U.S. standards where the practice is to pay aides on hourly basis. (In USA they are generally not given lodging and food.) For not paying her aide according to U.S. labor rules, Devyani was arrested outside the school where she had gone to drop her child. (It is not known why they did not arrest her at her residence. The US media spared no effort to paint Indians despicably.) Indian media men covered the matter indifferently. An Indian columnist, Sarita Sarvate wrote in a monthly, India Currents. In her regular feature, "the last word", she wrote about the maltreatment of the maid servant because of which "the united States was forced to expel her from the consulate", adding that ' India ranks at the top of its index of slavery' and 'exhibits full spectrum of different forms of modern slavery' and 'still we claim to be one of the most advanced nations on earth, with an allegedly democratic government' and that the upper crust of India 'thrives on the enslaving of 14million human beings feels entitled to continue the abuse...what is shocking is that India's populace does not object.' Sarita Sarvate thought she had done the country of her origin a good turn. May be but she is not justified in saying that nothing has changed over the last six decades in India and she is contemptuous of the people like Khobargade. No doubt, slavery in the world in all forms must be condemned. The Western world has acquitted itself well in having outlawed slavery. The civilized world should exert pressure on vanishing slavery in letter and spirit. Indian labor laws have done a good deal to improve the lot of labor of which Sarita is perhaps not aware.

An Indo-American citizen, Radhika Vaz commented "Of all the things Devyani Khobragade is, she is certainly not unique. In fact let's be honest she is pretty much exactly like every other person in this great country. See we Indians stand divided on many things – NaMo, RaGa and the Baba Ramdev. We are a country segregated by religious and state lines and we have no unifying language. But no matter how much at odds we may be with our Tamil-Christian or Punjabi-Hindu neighbor, the urban

Indian is willing to put aside all of his differences to stand united with one another agalnst his servant. Radhika should better familiarize herslf with sarvate's candid views. Radhika castgates 'How else can we explain the support Devyani got from us as a nation? The accusation against her is that she fudged documents so that she could import a maid she got caught. And educated Indians everywhere rushed to her defense completely ignoring the plight of her maid. At first this bothered me but then I realized that it is not really our fault. I mean how suddenly we are supposed to take up for a maid when all our efforts thus far have been focused in putting them down? Think about it if you have a maid then she probably has her own set of crockery and cutlery that is never ever mixed in with yours, she does not sit on your furniture, and in all likelihood must leave her chappals outside your home before coming in.' She continues "A while ago my husband and I were taken on a sales tour of a new luxury apartment building in Gurgaon. As he walked us through the model apartment, the real estate agent waxed on about the Italian marble, the Belgian granite and high quality emulsion paint. Everything from the showerhead to the doorknob was top of the line, and he let us know it, his voice rising to a high pitched squeak as he ushered us into the bathroom with a flourish.

"At the very end of the tour he led us to a small room off the kitchen that was to be the servant's quarter. As we looked around he assured us that no money had been wasted in the construction of our future servant's dwelling. They had taken the trouble to use the cheapest possible, distemper on the walls and floors were cement. Plus there was a separate 'service' elevator for the help so that the masters would never have to unnecessarily breathe the same air. Clearly the point here is that a servant deserves not just less, but far less than the master and has. This builder was going to make sure of that. For the customer to be truly happy it wasn't enough that the room had to be cheap, it had to look cheap, and it did.

"Why are we like this? Why is (it) that the men and women who cook our food, clean our homes and look after our children are treated like second-class citizens? Why is it that we still have a second class? I

know someone who was highly offended by the sight of an ayah cooling her heels in the Delhi G swimming pool. I so wanted to tell this person that the ratio of pool water to human piss was probably off the chart but decided not to upset her any further. But her comment made me wonder if this mindless separation that we so clearly have is in place because we think our maids are dirty, or because we want to keep them in their place,

"In the end it does not matter what the reasons are. The fact is that in this day and age we are all complicit in perpetuating the kind of social separation that America experienced during segregation and that South Africa suffered with apartheid. Or for that matter what we ourselves experienced pre-independence when the British ruled us and we were all part of the servant class."

A friendly U.S. citizen narrated the story in a different way: Devyani was arrested and her body search was done in a boorish way when she had gone to drop her child in the school. Did the authorities think that she was going to run away that they did not or could not wait to arrest her at her residence? It would have been humane if she was arrested at her residence and the method of arrest and body search were done not in the crude way these were done. If she were arrested at her residence, she would not have been worried about her child ==whom she would have trusted to the care of some friend. The maid lodged a complaint and acted on it. But is it not strange that the police could not trace her. Someone inferred that there was some other motive in humiliating her. Those who made the arrest forgot to consider that Devyani trusted the servant otherwise she would not have left the house and the child in the maid's care and custody? What makes the story more poignant is that the father of Devyani's maid was an employee of U.S. Embassy in India. Better not to comment as we do not know whether the matter is sub judice or not. But one thing is certain that the maid was no way treated like a slave. 'Service' and 'slavery' are two different things. It is strange that the maid disappeared after lodging complaint with the police who they have been successful in locating her.

SLAVERY IN USA

The story of slavery is worth narrating. Soon after their arrival in America, the immigrants had to get busy in solving their basic needs. They got busy in producing food. They developed farming and agriculture. As back as 1660, Virginia's tobacco plantation relied on slaves. For rice plantation slaves were brought from rice growing West Africa. In 1786 a ship brought 80 Africans purchased with American rum to South Carolina and they were enslaved to expand plantation Somerset. Most northern States ended slavery by 1840s. Reformers and escaped slaves pushed for abolition of slavery but it was entrenched with southern agriculture (notably cotton) that drove the country's economy. (By 1860s slave owner Josiah Collins III relied on labor of 328 slaves to run his grandfather's plantation.) By 1860, 80 per cent US exports were produced by slave labor. Slavery posed social, political and economic problems that led to Civil War. After the civil war ended in 1865, four million people listed in US census as property became free American citizens. The reunited US people embarked on inter-racial democracy. The US ideal was 'ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL'. By 1915 nine million African Americans moved from rural south to northern cities for greater freedom. By 1930, they drew southern Africans to west and north of USA. By 1960s, most of 18.9 million Africans lived in cities. The recent African-American population in USA stood at 42 million and it was estimated that 55% of them lived in south USA.

New England consolidated manufacturing while the South made plantation important by harnessing slaves brought from Africa for labor. The US Constitution was based on compromise with Northern and Southern states. The Northern states wanted to outlaw Slavery, the Southern states did not want to dispense with slavery. This grew into North versus South tussle that gained importance in national matters. Missouri and Maine were accepted as slave-free states. South compromised and borrowed slaves from Louisiana. This set the term for the next 40 years but at the end it led to a Civil War caused by the varied needs of the North and South. While North was getting industrialized, South maintained plantation which necessitated slave labor. The Western

states supported territorial expansion as its manifest destiny. (The Munro Doctrine was propounded in 1812. Later US acquired Florida from Spain and in 1840s Oregon and the Mexican territory and Settlements from Britain. Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and J. F. Kennedy interpreted the Monroe Doctrine in Cuba.)

The US constitution had adopted a balanced federal government that guaranteed rights to US citizens but without tackling the problem of slavery. As a result tensions increased between North and South which would last another one hundred years. Between 1860 and 1865, some 20000 free African-Americans escaped and their regiment fought as uniformed soldiers fought against slavery in a Civil War (1861-65). (South had seceded from the Union.) After the war, the southern states were readmitted into the confederacy and in 1877 a compromise was reached whereby the Republican Party removed troops from South. The internal crises were well managed which enhanced US importance globally. Before the end of the First World War USA became an industrial and economic super power and expanded outwardly. In 1919, the Versailles Treaty penalized Germany that created a situation ripe for the rise of Hitler and World War II. The end of the World War II was followed by a Cold War. The self assumption of role of world's policeman brought USA in conflict in Korea, Indo-China and other regions. President Kennedy's stand on Cuba by USA brought it to the brink of war with USSR. Kennedy's assassination and people's desire made it a racially integrated nation. The assassination 0f King impacted US identity. The Blacks were accepted as equal which united the people as one. NINE-ELEVEN, 2001 is another important date in US history. (In 2013 an excellent movie portrayed Lincoln's participation in the Civil War that led to the end of slavery in United States). (For chronology of crusade against slavery in USA see below.)

It is sad that slavery has been outlawed but not the slavish mentality. A crusade is required to banish slavery and slavish mentality from the face of the world.

2.2 CANONIZATION

Canonization has proved to be a subtle motivation for Christian leadership to do good to fellow human beings. If the pursuit of a saintly person wins people's hearts, he\she is recognized, and qualifies for canonization and sainthood. After making inroads in Europe, during 17th and 18thcenturies, Christians (evangelists and missions) followed traders who had already colonized lands and were exploiting natural resources. While the evangelists baptized people to meet their political ends, the missionaries protected their flocks from colonial masters and warlords. In the process Monks from Ireland, Spain and Portugal suffered hardships, and the experiences of nuns as educators and nurses were not different. To reduce their misery and motivate them, numerous cults sprang up and their sacrifices were recognized. Kateri Tekkawitha, an American who died in 1680, was beatified. Joachim Royo, a Spaniard who died in China in 1748, Charles Liwanga who with 21 companions was burned alive in Uganda in 1880s were canonized in 1964, a native American St Elizabeth Setom (d.1821) was canonized for organizing charity to deprived children, Josephine Bakhita (a slave in Africa) took refuge in a convent in Italy, worked as a nurse and died in 1947 was canonized in 2000. Pope Paul II in 2000 canonized 480 Christians who were victims of mass persecution, as new saints. These included 117 martyrs of Vietnam (who died between 1745 and 1862), and 25 Mexicans (killed between 1915 and 1937). He initiated 6832 priests and religious persons who were put to death during the Spanish Civil War (1936-39).

2. 3 POVERTY AND HUNGER

After the first century of the first millennium Christendom reigned supreme and played a major role in political life of Europe. The rulers and the ruled in Europe recognized the authority of the Church. But by 1400 the situation changed; the Church was no longer a disciplining institution. Popes had become corrupt and they lived in luxury. While the priesthood and the rich lived in luxury, the condition of the common was pitiable. In the 15th century, the Protestants raised their voice against superstitious practices. They opposed reverence for relics and saints and considered

these as idolatry. The differences in opinions among the Christian sects were not resolved and during 15-16th centuries Christendom became a realm of war and disorder. The reformers insisted that an intercession of saints and priests was not required and their veneration was contrary to the teachings of Bible. Also, the Protestants refuted the need of Pope for ordaining the saints and forbade worship of saints and shrines and pilgrimages.

The church in England, born out of political need went through reformation. King Henry VIII (1491-1547) who chafed under Papal rule rejected the authority of Rome and he and Tudor Mary (1516-1558) hunted and persecuted Orthodox Christians. The English accepted the king as the head of England's Church and rejected the Roman practices. The priests continued to be ordained but the saints were abandoned. The Church of England proclaimed images and relics as repugnant and it wanted such practices to be discarded. Reforms in Church were made and these have continued being made. But this has brought divisions among churches. Then poor were poor and they have continued to remain poor.

Poverty has been and continues to be a serious problem for the world and it must be tackled at universal level. Human welfare depends on meeting people's demands. First, one must meet one's needs and live within one's means. If after meeting needs, any extra is left, save it for future. Invest the savings. It need be remembered that wealth is product of man's labor and labor must be treated with respect. The wealthy accumulate wealth, provide and enjoy comforts whereas misery is the lot of the poor. Large segments of people of Afro-Asian countries are ravaged by violence and disease and for their pitiable condition they curse social injustice which impedes their development. Religion incites racism, social discrimination and intolerance. Fundamentalists indulge in ethnic cleansing. Each faith has its goal and its own way to achieve it. Extremists among adherents of Islam and Christianity call upon their faithful to return to their al Qaida or Eucharistic way of life. A Christian offers bread and wine to fellow beings and says glory to God. What is the way out of this chaos?

It is surmised by intelligentsia that a day will come when ECONOMICS with AGRICULTURE and MEDICAL SCIENCE will prove as efficacious remedy against poverty, hunger and disease. In the early part of the last century, Darwin, Marx, and Freud were graded as the century's greatest men whose discoveries had revolutionized the world. But look back what had Sigmund Freud discovered? Nothing and he cured no one but popularized the use of term Sex to such an extent that it lost much of its gloss and charm. The difficulty is that Psychology like other social sciences suffers from the constraints of experimentation and quantifying metrics for concepts like hope, fear and anxiety. The concepts of Social Sciences and Economics share the same fate.

In the world presently 900 million people struggle to earn less than a dollar a day, while 300 millionaires have more wealth than the entire bottom of humankind. It was theorized that if the entire wealth of the richest of the world was distributed among the poor each one would get less than his year's wages which would result into sinking of world economy into depression for want of investment. Expecting the rich to open their purse strings in a quick experiment, President George W. Bush found the solution in reducing the income tax charges for the higher classes hoping to improve the nation's economy but the result of the experiment was, maybe it was coincidence, terrific. A severe recession ensued which his successor Barak Obama contended with during much of his presidency. The wizardry of the rich resulted in making poor poorer and the rich getting richer.

In past Christians had faith in belief systems; guided by Church they were ruled by state. Science opened an option. The accumulated story of tax and the strategy of favoring the rich go back to the Roman Imperial days when the rich had wealth and power and the poor stayed poor. Even after the fall of the Roman Empire, myths circulated about 'get rich' which the priesthood credited to the divinity rather than accounting to the real causes - corruption and lawlessness. Then the per capita income was meager and it grew at a pretty low pace. In the Middle Ages crop failures and consequent famine visited farmers once every four years and the survival of farmers was miraculous. (This was very subtly

portrayed by an Indian novelist, Premchand in his heart wrenching, pathetic conditions of farmers in the agrarian society of early 20th century India under British rule.) The life expectancy in the world was as low as 30 years. The grandmas entertained children with happy-ending stories. Ignorance reigned supreme. European historians eulogized the innovations of water wheels and wind mills that made people's life easy. Scriptures gave all knowledge, said the priests. No change was effected nor was any change in sight. The best course was to hope the return of the good old days! This was the happy end of blessings of sacred life.

The European economy began to improve with the advent of Italian Renaissance (1450-1600). ENLIGHTENMENT brought democratic revolution (in England in 1688 and in France in 1789 and Dutch Republic with their inventions in the 18th century.) Stories of Scientific research mostly came out true and altered thinking of mankind and advanced our knowledge of the universe. But the talk of democratic revolution is glib talk. It has yet to raise humanity above poverty, ignorance and fear though the life span has undoubtedly increased. Also, religious prohibitions are relaxed, and the awareness of human rights and rule of law have improved. The rise of science promises to make man 'master of nature'. Agrarian reforms like crop rotation, seed selection, and new tools have reduced labor in farming; young men and women have become free to try their hands at trade and factory work. Technological innovations and job specialization have amplified productivity of labor, and merchants and tradesmen are making more money. Gentry instead of ancestry has grown. The Western civilization was transformed by capital and scientific movements. The democratic revolution has spread freedom and equal rights in most of the world. The countries with scientific developments have become liberal ; the ecclesiastics claim these were gifts of Christianity to mankind.

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CHRONOLOGY OF ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN USA

1526: Africans enslaved were brought by Spanish settlers to American Continent.

1619: 20 settlers in James Town, Virginia, were sold to English settlers.

1808: US bans import of African slaves but domestic slave trade continues to flourishes.

1865-66: : Confederate Veterans from KKK maintained White control by terrorizing Blacks States passed Black Codes to restrict rights of freed slaves.

1867-68: US Congress reconstructed former confederate states under martial law to grant civil law to Blacks.

1868: 14th Amendment makes Blacks US citizens.

1870: 15th Amendment guaranteed Blacks right to vote.

1890-1900: Southern states lose right to vote as states enact to poll taxes and literary tests and restricted voting to men whose father or grandfather could vote in 1867.

1913: President Woodrow Wilson expanded segregation in Federal workplaces.

1917: Ten thousand Africans marched in silence down the 5th Avenue, New York to protest lynching. Whites responded by attacking Blacks.

1928: first Black representative Oscar de Priest elected to US Congress.

1941: President Franklin Roosevelt bans racial discrimination in Defence industry to avert march on Washington.

1942: A biracial student committee in Chicago founds CORE and stages a first sit-in in a coffee shop.

1947: Jackie Robinson joins Black Dodgers as first Black players in modern major league basketball.

White schools as unconstitutional. This overturns the 1896 separate but equal doctrine.

1955: Martin Luther King Jr. agreed to lead a city bus boycott to desegregate bus setting.

1957: King founded the Southern leadership conference to plan non-action.

1960: successful sit-in to desegregate lunch counters to promote student non-violent Coord. Comm.

1963: Sunday bombing of a Baptist Church in Burmingum, Albama, affected 4 African American girls.

1964: 24th Amendment abolishes Federal elections.

: KKK murders 3 civil rights workers in Mississippi at the start of a voter registration drive call.

: Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination.

1965: A voting rights act bans literacy tests and other legal obligations.

1966: Rise of Black Power Movement.

1967: US Supreme Court strikes down state laws against international marriage.

: Law expert Thurgood appointed first Black Supreme Civil Judge.

1968: Martin Luther King assassinated in Memphis.

1973: Black mayors arrested in Los Angeles, Detroit and Atlanta.

1978: US Supreme Court ruled in Bakke case against strict racial quotas for university administration.

1986: King's birthday first observed as a Federal holiday.

1993: Toni Morrison awarded Noble Prize in literature.

2008: Barack Obama elected as the first Black President.

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2.4 LOVE JIHAD

'Love Jihad' came in use only recently when allegedly 'Muslim boys lured Hindu girls into relationships' and tried to forcibly convert and marry them. The Kerala High Court (in India) in a judgment used the term and then It came to the national level when a girl shooter- participant in a national event, Tara Sehdeo found herself betrayed by a man who in order to marry her allegedly assumed a Hindu name Ranjit Kumar Kohli married her according to Hindu rites. When she came to know the reality that he was a Muslim, she protested. To silence her, he beat her. She found his real name was Raqibal Hasan Khan. He tried to have a Nikah (marriage according to Islamic rites) which she refused. When he tortured her, she reported her seduction to the police who booked a case under Indian Penal Code for a deliberate and malicious act that outraged her religious feelings and beliefs.

The matter took a political color. The secularists said that it was 'a paranoid fantasy of right wing lunatics who wanted to undermine the right of self-select partners'. Another fringe of secularists called it 'an assault on Hindu manhood' and 'a conspiracy to convert Hindu girls to Islam'. The first group added that in upper Middle class, inter-faith marriages are common and Tara Sehdeo's protest did not deserve any notice as it was neither a part of concerted conspiracy aimed at religious conversion nor revenge against the majority; it was a matter of the heart. If so, love jihad is not a hoax that must be opposed. In the din the crux of crime was forgotten.

As several such cases, besides cases of rape, had occurred, and girls were and are being duped into matrimonial alliances and the affected women were being sent abroad, 'Hindu nationalists' suspected that Raqibal could be part of a Jihadi outfit and that certainly love jihad is a menace.

Marriage across communities does not keep politicians awake, and seculars think of intermingling of social groups. This does not mean communalizing rape or gender violence and they are undermining seriousness of such crimes. Another comment was that politicians love

Jihad to polarize people. A lady by name Maria Akram (Christian or Muslim?) commented (The Times of India) that for people in India caste and religion matter but the gap was being bridged through interfaith and inter-caste marriages. Others say the leaders should not take 'love jihad' lightly for the consequences could be serious. Leave aside matrimonial cases, inter religious matters are delicate and any fault in settling these may have serious repercussions. Two recent instances from higher level politics may be cited.

The first case relates to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards in 1984. It was a grave regrettable matter but part of the Sikh community celebrated instead of expressing regrets. But the Sikh leaders, especially the emigrated rich Sikh leaders in USA and Britain talked of injustice to the community and of the murderers as their heroes. They did not talk of Bhindrawale's actions in the Gurudwara in Amritsar. They produced a movie eulogizing the action of murderers. Another similar incident relates to Godhra (in Gugrat) where a railway compartment in which Hindu pilgrims was allegedly torched by some Muslim miscreants. Scores of Hindu pilgrims died. No Muslim leader expressed regret and when allegedly Hindus retaliated, some Muslims killed. Loss of life, whether Hindu or Muslim, is loss of life; it affects families and communities and should be condemned by all. Perhaps expression of regrets would have pacified the frayed tempers and the trouble would have been averted.

The Tara Sehdeo incident: It has been suggested by law pundits that the only solution to check such crimes is to have one common law. It has been noted that Induced marriages don't prove successful. In the past some inter-religious marriages were successful, some were bizarre with grievous results. (Bi-monthly 'India Legal' October 15, 2014). A few reported cases are: Indira - Feroze Gandhi (Hindu-Parsee), Suneel Dutt-Nargis (Hindu-Muslim), Johra-Sehgal (Muslim-Hindu), Kartar Singh Duggal (Sikh)and his Muslim doctor wife (an ideal marriage, the author was their neighbor) , Sharmila Tagore and Nawab of Pataudi (Hindu-Muslim), Aruna-Asaf Ali (Hindu-Muslim), Shah Rukh Khan-Gauri (Muslim-Hindu), Naseeruddin and Ratna Pathak Shah, Saif ali and Kareena Kapur, Shah Nawaz Khan and Renu, Muzaffar and Meera Ali.

The Catholic Bishops Council said (in Kerala) that 4500 girls had been converted by Muslim youth who feigned love to lure them into marriage.' Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said, 'he found no evidence these were forced'. One man from Nazirabad was arrested for entrapping Hindu girls by posing as a Hindu on social networking sites. 'Interfaith couples' might not be hailed as heroes, traitors or rebels. It is generally questioned why it is always Muslim men marry Hindu (or Christian) girls and rarely the other way around? 'And Hindu, Christian and tribal girls convert because as women they are brought up to adapt to the marital home.' In India dowry is another curse which takes many lives. The problem is a curse. it has not been solved so far.

2.5 CORRUPTION

CORRUPTION is rampant all over India, nay the world, in one form or the other. In 1930s, I remember in India under British rule corruption was accounted to alien rule and it was impressed that once the country became free, corruption would disappear. After independence in 1947 people, who were gullible and believed the politicians were disappointed to find the vice continued. The Press was disappointed that no corrupt man was ever hanged to the nearest lamppost. In independent India, more saddened were, we, the people of India, who never saw anyone hanged on lamp post. The press reported a jeep scandal but did not hear anyone was punished. Presuming that perhaps corruption was a phenomenon of poor countries, it shocked the poor to learn that not only in the capitalist system, people suffered from corrupt practices but that these were prevalent even in communist countries where people were not immune from this malady and it beat their credulity when they learned that in the prosperous West it is the wealthy who crave for more and more riches and indulge in corrupt practices and complain of corruption. Their standard of living should be superior to that poor people of the third world countries. It beats one's intelligence why should the affluent indulge in this vice? It is said their needs are greater than the common man's. In U.K. ministers were involved in sex scandals. For long, stories of people like Profumo regaled all. In USA such practices are ignored! Cases of corruption surfaced in USSR and China after 1990.

In China cases of involvement of very high up politicians, both male and female, were heard. How about India? The Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, when asked about black money of Indians in Swiss Bank, told a reporter that names of those Indians who had stacked their wealth in Swiss banks would be given in an envelope to the Supreme Court. The information was given. Who are they and why had they to stack abroad?

In the past government kept itself detached from securing or even showing any interest or making effort to suppress information about individuals who had indulged or were indulging in corrupt practices. Smaller fries from police, customs, revenue etc were sometime caught but now even chief ministers and Union Ministers are being apprehended. But why should there be need for corruption?

The lack of good governance, paralysis of economic prosperity, growth inflation and declining faith of citizens in the instrument of governance present a problematic future for the rule of law and order and prosperity through peaceful means. In 2009 in India, Judiciary, media, audit and election authorities courageously exposed misconduct of the corrupt at the top. India's Bar Association's R.K.N. Shankardass observed, 'Since 2010, the winter of despair seems to be over and the spring of hope has gained strength'. But on 2nd February, 2012 'one hundred and twenty two spectrum licenses were canceled, two cabinet ministers resigned and faced prosecution'. In 2014 CAG Rai's book made out that the Prime Minister (Man Mohan Singh) was not unaware of the happenings in his office. The Book of a Minister of State, Natwar Singh created a little uneasiness among top Congress leadership but as generally happens the commotion was short lived and human memory being short- lived, it is likely to die down soon. The judgment of the Supreme Court had mentioned the instance of appointment of Thomas as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner 'for institutional integrity' and as the touchstone in public interest.'

Not too long back, Anna Hazare had started a movement against corruption which attracted young talents in a large number; they identified their group as AAM ADMI. They started well but their chief

under stress tried to prove himself as a replica of Mahatma Gandhi. The effort fell flat. Will corruption end?

Western historians do not tire of claiming that the seeds of democracy were first sown in the Greco-Roman region of the Mediterranean Sea. The Greek Islands fought for their ideology that was later taken up by the Romans who developed it into republicanism. After the Roman Empire weakened, the power was shared by the emperor and the Bishop (religious head), latter called pope. In Europe five states grew up under autocrat rulers. The people resented the governance. Better not mention developments over centuries. Then In England soon after the ascension of Charles V to the throne of England in 1625, the king got involved in religious, financial and political troubles. He pushed the authoritarian version of Anglicanism (which was created by King Henry VIII) and in 1635 clashed with Pope and broke off with Rome. He next clashed with the Parliament on the role of monarchy and Parliament wanted more power in government and claimed for itself the right. King Charles wanting to suppress the up- rise asked for funds to raise an army; the Parliament refused to give any funds. This led to a civil war in which the Anglicans were pitted against Puritans, aristocrats against gentry. Charles lost the war and he was executed. It had happened in one thousand years that a sitting king was executed by his own subjects. It proved the supremacy of the Parliament. In 1688 the Parliament invited Charles' son to become king as James II but on becoming king in 1688, he came in conflict with Parliament which led to Glorious Revolution. They invited Willis and his wife Mary from Holland provided they agreed that the Parliament was coequal branch of government. This was not accepted by Willis and the government was shut down. Parliament proved supreme.

This poses an important point about the dynastic rule. Britain has been an ideal for Indian politicians. The first Prime Minister Jawahar lal Nehru was 'a democrat and did not interfere in the functioning of the government.' But some people criticize that he propped up his daughter, Indira. HIs successor Lal Bahadur Shastri was humble and honest prime minister who will be known for standing up to Pakistan's boasts. The only weakness of the small-size prime minister was heard that he on

becoming the prime minister did not move to the Teen Murti House designated as the PM House. Indira Gandhi, Shastri's successor was a strict disciplinarian except for her younger son, Sanjay under whose pressure she had to declare Emergency. She was bold and stood up to the bluster of Bhindrawale who wanted to carve out a Sikh state. The gradual degradation began when the cronies of Rajeev Gandhi began to interfere in the functioning of the government. Atal Bihari Vajpayee stopped the rot and successfully put Pakistan's president Musarraf in his place. Man Mohan Singh might be a good economist but he proved a lackluster leader because he let open several gates to corruption.

It is unfortunate that (It is not known how far it is true) Indira Gandhi said that Nehru family 'had attained royalty. If true, her day dream was for royalty, not democracy. Perhaps the Indian Constitution needs to be amended to the extent that no Indian citizen will claim royalty for himself\herself and that crusading for royalty in any form shall be treated as an anti-national activity. Dynastic Rule is an anathema to democracy. Like kings and emperors, the very thought of dynastic rule must also go because it allows corruption to grow. Santosh Desai rightly said that the idea of dynasty stunts the growth of other leaders...It is self delusion that the country needs dynasty.

2.6 A GREAT CRUSADER: GBS

Christ and Christianity have over two millennia aroused public curiosity and a great deal of literature exists, some critical but mostly appreciative. The most noteworthy gift to the world, of Christianity, is Modern Science. Religion and Literature too have greatly benefitted. We have picked up one of the most reputed names from literary field who wrote on Christianity. That was George Bernard Shaw .

In his exhaustive Preface to "Androcles and the Lion" George Bernard Shaw discusses a lot of questions pertaining to Christ and Christianity and here is a very brief review of his candid responses.

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) is one of the greatest Christian crusaders though he did not like being considered a Christian. I was

introduced to Shaw's works by Prof. D.M. Borgaonkar In 1946 and was greatly impressed and went through almost all his Plays, including 'Androcles and the Lion", little knowing that I would be ever writing about GBS and Christianity for "Crusade". (Androcles waa Published in Penguin or Pelican I don't recall which one was it at this distance of time.

GBS was impressed by economist Henry George who advocated that national revenue should be raised by a single tax on land value but instead he took to Fabianism that believed in gradual revolutionary change, to be brought not by sudden violence but by legislation aiming at equality as he trusted less in the power of Acts of Parliament to increase human welfare and happiness. He said good people will make good laws but good laws made by a few do not make a good society. At a young age GBS abandoned the Christian religion practiced by churches; he believed he had strayed from the teachings of Christ. His conviction and conduct were those of a righteous man who insisted that it was men's duty to leave the world a better place than he had found it. He wrote about (like Ibsen) on current social, political and religious problems of working class man, not about the landed aristocracy that had ruled for centuries.

The story of Androcle written by Aulus Gallius (123-165 A.D.) informs that the last words of Androcles, a persecuted Christian, in an encounter with a hurt lion, were 'While we stand together, no cage for you: no slavery for me." No cage, no slavery is the absolute right of every creature. The Romans persecuted Christians from the time of Nero till Emperor Constantine made Christianity state religion in the fourth century. But soon thereafter the Christians began to persecute one another because of differences in their opinions about the person of Christ and his teachings. Majority of them accepted Christian doctrines and formula of worship which became the fundamentals of belief and practice of the Church in Rome with pope as its head. Departure from the practice was considered heresy, meaning contrary opinion, but soon it became sin punishable by torture and death.

The purpose of the Christian church is to spread the teachings of Jesus Christ throughout the world. These are interpreted by the priest.

Over the years sight has been lost of the teachings of Christ or these have reversed. Shaw did not believe that Jesus took upon himself the sins of mankind as consequences of misdeeds are not escapable and man has to suffer himself; faith in a redeemer cannot avert the penalty of evil deeds. But the Church teaches that it is imperative to believe in Jesus as Christ, the son of God who sacrificed himself to save man from the consequences of sin those who accept him as Lord, have faith in Jesus' supernatural mission. CONDUCT was the root principle of Christianity. But to accept Jesus' supernatural power without questioning is mythic and delusional.

The Jesus' doctrines, according to Shaw, are: The kingdom of God is within men, men must abolish private property and throw it in the common stock, men must get rid of idea of punishment, revenue and family ties which hamper God's work. Were Jesus' teachings a type of communism that attacked the existing social order under the delusion that the end of world was at end? But the idea of kingdom of God is as good or bad a trait 'as wearing a beard, working in a carpenter's shop or believing that the earth is flat' could be a trait of Christianity. Christianity is a step in moral evolution which is independent of any individual preacher. Was there a Jesus? In his witty way GBS says if Jesus had not existed, Tolstoy would have quarreled with the Greek Church. 'But for some reason the imagination of white mankind has picked out Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ' and attributed all the qualities to him. Yet they have produced an irresistible impression that he was executed as an unpractical dreamer, dangerous anarchist and blasphemous madman. Was Jesus a coward that he could not save himself? Not so. At the time of his death Jesus believed himself to be Christ, a divine personage. Simon Peter believed so. He showed considerable fortitude. Was Jesus a martyr?

EPILOGUE CHRISTIANITY – A GLOBAL FAITH

Christianity is supreme religion and Western Civilization the greatest civilization, this was proclaimed at a Christian Conference at Edinburg in 1910. That was the era of imperialism but from time to time the

message is repeated by historians, and the achievements of the West are proclaimed to the world. No doubt the West has made tremendous progress, especially in science and technology. It is unfortunate that two world wars and innumerable conflicts during the past century have made not much of a change in the outlook of the West, except that the scepter of power has transferred since the end of World War II from Imperial Great Britain to democratic and power conscious U.S.A. Perhaps this consciousness of world leadership, beside oil, has got USA embroiled in the power politics of the Islamic countries of the Middle East. This is the very region where Islam had overpowered Christians and captured the City sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims. The Testaments and Quran sway the religious feelings of the faithful Christians and Muslims. The former aware of their material strength and will power assert their superiority, the latter fundamentalists and conscious of their glorious past are unwilling to accept an inferior status in the world. The two are attuned to creating conflict and unfortunately they clash on minor differences that could be settled otherwise and bring peace in the world, only if they adopt rational attitude.

Population-wise Christianity ranks number one in the world, followed by Islam and Hinduism as number 3. The pre-eminence of Christianity is confirmed, and it is said that Christians are better managers and entrepreneurs. (Of course, they all indulge in unscrupulous practices if that could help them.) A new form of faith surged ahead - popular in appeal, social impact and theological acumen- based on which Christian evangelists commend the faith to non-Christians to accept Christianity. (Can Islamists with their unbending religious attitude and history of terrorism commend Islam to humanity for conversion? They rarely use persuasion and are accustomed to use force as is seen by history of Islam. This was discussed in 'JIHAD'.)

The Bible commends: Be truthful and become many; fill the earth... Equipped with this assurance, the apostles and the followers of Jesus Christ moved on. They travelled and popularized the thoughts of their Messiah. They were a dedicated lot and suffered and sacrificed even their lives for their faith. The thoughts of their leader took shape into

Christianity, church and New Testament. The church did not make the Testament nor did Testament make the church. The two grew together. The ideas spread around the Mediterranean, but not in one voice as there were splinter groups with different viewpoints. Even so the faith expanded and as it did, the need of permanent record was felt. The Gospels and experiences of Christians took the shape of Bible. Persuasion and coercion have boosted their number and made them supreme in the world. The conversions made by the ecclesiasts by opening schools and hospitals did some good to humanity. But this has harmed the sudden uprooting of people from their habitat.

CONVERSION

St Thomas who travelled from Palestine to Shanmukham in Kerala brought Christianity and preached Gospels to the Syrian communities already settled on the western coast of Kerala, India. He established seven churches and converted upper class Hindus. He was martyred in 72 ACE in Maylapore. The next batch of Christians from Palestine arrived in 345 when a businessman Thomas Cana came along with 72 families and settled in Kerala. The next major Christian missionary activity dates 1498 when Vasco da Gama discovered the sea route to Malabar. In the 16th century upper caste Hindus were converted by St Francis Xavier. The Malabar Church blended with the indigenous social structure; it believed that every individual achieved salvation in his own faith; it remained exclusive with no entry for outsiders. Later it got truncated and was subjugated by Western Latin Church. In the 19th century the abolition of slavery in the state by the Travancore Maharaja benefited all, including converted Christians. The Anglican Church (aka the Church of South India) and the Syrian Catholic Church converted the lower caste Hindus that gave rise to social and economic problems. After liberation, the converts were free from their obligations to upper castes. The Syrian Christians enjoyed upper caste status while Latin Christians were treated as lower caste. The conservatives were rigid in observing the tenets of the church. There was no interaction between the Syrian and Latin Christians. After India's independence, the Latin Christians were included in backward class category. Conversion by the Catholic Church has been going on in India for over 19 centuries much to the

annoyance of local people. Ram Chandra Guha provides information about conversion of Hindus by Muslims and of Hindus and Muslims by Christians in India, and about the violence caused by evangelization and Islamist Mullahs.

According to the reports of UN agencies, Africa had in 1900 a population of 100 million which by 2005 had increased to 400 million of whom 46 % were Christians. In the beginning of 20th century, the Philippines were totally a Catholic Christian country. In other countries the growth was mostly accounted to their being lackeys of imperialists. There too things are changing. Latin America was colonized by Spain and Portugal in 16th and 17th centuries and today they are Catholic. In converting them to Christianity, they had committed many abuses and not all people showed enthusiasm when they celebrated the Fifth Millennia of Discovery of Americas by Christopher Columba. In North America Protestantism has shown remarkable success. Presently the church has many denominations whose names are quite amusing such as 'The Assembly of God' and 'Four Square'! Fatu Thadani (aka Sehgal for his musical talents) collected information about conversions world-wide, particularly in Pakistan, based on Reports of U.N. Agencies, which confirm the statements made here.

SPORTS: Games began in Greece to create competitive spirit among participants in sports. Games were organized in Rome and latter in various parts of the world to generate feeling of universal brotherhood among human beings. Olympic Games are held periodically in various parts of the world. Sports have improved standards of performance and the youth waits for these fervently.

[DEMOCRACY, the hallmark of Christianity, is opposed to religious and political orthodoxy. Faith draws attention to human rights abuses that clings to religion.]

PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE & ECONOMICS

The greatest gift of Christianity to the humanity is Science and scientific attitude towards the world. This section on western philosophy and science will take the reader from Socrates' thought to those of Kant and

Hegel and scientific developments that are affecting human existence and the world.

Christianity owes much to Greek Philosophy. At its inception stage, as a faith, chrisianity lay emphasis on spiritualism but after Renaissance it lay more stress on reason. The entire gamut of knowledge was examined which gave impetus to science. Logic gained more importance New discoveries and inventions gave the society a new life face. Technologies are making life smooth. But the differences of Religion and science retard the progress. The two Sections below on Philosophy and Science will show how the differences continue and conflicts occur, affecting the human societies. The crusades grew into revolutions and revolutions into world wars. The landmarks of Philosophy outlined below show interactions in disciplines of knowledge. One thing remarkable of Western society is its discipline. The Western philosophy extended is arm to science which is the cause of progress of Western Culture and civilization. Islam too sure of its tenets believes in its unitary approach but has not during thirteen hundred years of its existence interpreted its tenets with scientific developments nor bothered to imbibe good things from other religions. Islam goes a step further to think its scriptures consist of everything. This is what humanists too thought but their reformists have left all that behind. The U.S. economists are stuck up at free market and profit charts, ignoring the concern of human existence.

PHILOSOPHY

About the 6th century B.C., Western philosophers (with their hub in Asia Minor) made attempts to understand the fundamentals of human existence and probed into the problems of the world and human existence which agitated their mind. These were:

1. Who am I?

2. Is there a supreme being (God)?

3. What is the purpose of life?

4. What is truth?

5. Do human beings have free will?

6. How can man lead a happy life?

7. Why do bad things happen?

8. Do people take rebirth (after death)?

They speculated over these questions and divided them according to their theme and nature, and classified their subjects as:

METAPHYSICS: relates to the nature of reality.

ONTOLOGY: Nature of being.

EPISTEMOLOGY: investigates the nature of knowledge.

ETHICS: moral values.

LOGIC: reasoning by deduction and induction.

Besides, Philosophy also concerns with religion, mythology, psychology, art, law and justice.

Several centuries before Jesus Christ, the Middle East was populated by Jews with Old Testament as their scripture. The ideas preached by Christ – crystallized as Christian faith\ Christianity would bring in changes in people's thoughts and conduct. Eminent among the Christians were Paul, St Augustus, Thomas Aquinas, Marcus Aurelius (121 – 180), Sextus Empiricus (160-210), Tertullion (160 – 220), Origen (185 – 264), and Plotinus (205-274). Christianity thrived in the Middle East. The fall of the Roman Empire led to decline of learning and pushed them into Dark Ages. The fall of Byzantium to the Barbarians made their Greek and Latin treasures insecure and were in danger of being lost. These were taken to Italian cities. Some of the Islamists also preserved the lost learning of Europe. Eventually, the thoughts of great souls like John Dun Scotus (1266-1308), Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Abelard, Thomas Aquinas, William of Ockham (1288-1348) enriched the faith. Among the Muslims who contributed to preservation and progress of the then Western Civilization may be named Avicenna (Ibn Sina 980-1037), Averroes fused Aristotelian ideas with Islamic thinking and tried to prove that religion and philosophy do not counter each other. He defended philosophy

from attacks of conservative Islam. The orthodox Muslims charged them of heresy and banished their writings. They said Koran advocated stages of philosophy and for the discovery of truth, Greek philosophers should be consulted.

Moses Mamonides aimed at reconciliation of contradictions between the tenets of Bible and Greek philosophy. Everything said in Bible, he said, should not e taken literally but remember that reason cannot contradict truth as revealed by God. He demonstrated that the Torah served a purpose and concluded that the essence of God was indefensible and incomprehensible. His writings were banned but his thoughts influenced latter thinkers.

What is the world and of what the life in it IS made of? Various elements were suggested – water (Thales), fire (Epicurus), firmament.) It was explained that when water evaporated, the matter became solid earth. Latter when they developed expertise in various aspects, the specialists were dubbed as:

Skeptics – they doubt whether there is anything worth knowing.

Empiricists – knowledge is based on external experiences. e.g. Hume, Rousseau

Idealists - they postulated that nothing exists beyond human thoughts.

Utilitarian – relates to basic moral principles e.g. James Mill, J.S. Mill.

Logical positivists: they seek to clarify meaning of concept and idea.

Existentialists: Existence precedes essence e.g. Soren Kirkeggard, Heidegger, Sartre

Analytic philosophy: Analysis of philosophical thoughts.

Anaximander was the first Greek philosopher to draw a map of heavens. He postulated that the world was made of four elements – water, air, earth and fire and hypothesized that earth was like a solid cylindrical drum hanging in space. Hercules said everything was in a state of flux. Parmenides in his work 'On Nature' qualified that appearances were deceptive and asserted that an encounter with the divinity reveals the

reality. He said time and space are infinitely divisible but defining infinity is problematic. Democritus said the universe is made of indivisible atoms; only atoms and space exist and all material is temporary. He cautions happiness lies in soul, not in material possessions (such as gold).

Socrates (470 B.C. – 399 B. C.), Plato (427-347 B.C.) and Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) are venerable names in the Western World and Civilization. Socrates persisted in knowing the truth and sacrificed his life. Plato who impacted Christian thought is best known for his theory of forms. In 'Republic' he set out his vision of Utopian Society which would be ruled by a trained person, and the lower order would consist of soldiers and common men. (Bertrand Russell criticized that Plato's philosophy would lead to totalitarianism.) Aristotle invented symbolic logic and said human actions were caused by one or more of seven causes- chance, nature, compulsion, habit, reason, passion, and drive.

The rise and fall of the Roman Empire affected humanity. The rise had brought to fore all round material progress and saw almost the entire Western Europe unified. The Renaissance came closer. The Greek MSS revived interest in ancient philosophy and science that helped them fight superstitions and in developing astronomy and mathematics. This was how ushered in the Modern Era was ushered in with Philosophy and science changing the society and human pattern in it. The speculative philosophy became more scientific. Several philosophers gave importance to reason and stated that reason was the source of knowledge. Descartes (French), Spinoza (Dutch), Leibniz were pioneers among them.

MODERN PHILOSOPHY

DESCARTES (1596-1650): Known as the Father of Modern Philosophy, Descartes had a vision of a unified system of knowledge and postulated that knowledge of the world can be acquired only through reason by applying method of deduction. He advocated Copernican cosmology and said that science was completely deductible from mathematics and that all phenomena can be explained mathematically. He invented Analytic Geometry and saw every observation with skepticism but felt secure in rationalism. "I think therefore I am", was the Sutra of his philosophy."

BLAISE PASCAL (1623-1662) demolished the Aristotelian view that nature abhors a vacuum and stressed that there should be an extra element.

NEWTON (1642-1727): In his work, Principia, Newton drew the threads of Renaissance science into a quantitative theory of gravitation that predicted motions of planets and comets in the sky. He calculated that the sun's gravitational force holds the earth in orbit by concentrating the inertia that would otherwise send space careening. Newton's work heralded enlightenment and ushered in democratic English revolution (1688). Newton demonstrated Tyco Brahms, observation that orbits of planets are elliptical, not circular. Science banks upon inquiry, innovation and improvement and challenges the status of happenings. Facts discovered by experimentation proved effective in curing diseases, reducing toil, and making money. Science also underscored that humans have natural rights. King James and King Charles believed in divine rights of king on earth. Newton denounced James' mandate. In 1689 the Bill of Rights made England a constitutional republic. The Wigs (Progressives) prevailed over the Tories (Conservative). Philosophy helped in the progress of society.

LOCKE argued that governments are obliged by social contract to protect natural rights to life, liberty and an individual's ownership of property. (His Treatises were considered seditious and apprehending trouble he decamped to Holland.) SPINOZA stood for democracy and inland liberty. Hume, Berkley, Voltaire, and Diderot also helped progress.

BACON (1561-1626) An English modern philosopher evolved modern science along two paths –after Bacon (induction) who believed in an overall world soul from which all souls originate and to it they all go back, and Cartesian (deduction). In 16th century some scientists viewed that history was cyclical with plentiful of revolutions – it was not linear. With material progress came enlightenment, not spiritualism and Aristotle's views on world updated by Ptolemy's cosmology collapsed. (For Ptolemy stars were shining gods.) Christians believed that their faith equipped them with knowledge of everything worthwhile in the world. Medieval Christianity picked up the idea of St Augustine that knowledge was made to make us happy and that was why man pursued philosophy. With Galileo and Bacon knowledge got separated from philosophy. Science subdues nature. For science happiness meant physical security. The church was run by a bunch of prelates who wanted to maintain their power by suppressing reality as they assumed that science and reason trump religion, salvation and mystery. But there is some superpower.

HOBBES (1588-1679) believed that the universe is a machine and nature is made up of tiny, invisible objects material whose behavior explains the behavior of objects they are made of. He also believed that there should be a social covenant between man and omnipotent state without which life would be solitary, poor and short.

BLAISE PASCAL (1623-1662): He demolished the Aristotelian view that nature abhors vacuum but after conversion to Christianity. He accepted the Augustinian belief that the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden marked the fall of man, leaving humanity corrupt and that salvation could come through the will of God. He argued that God's existence cannot be settled definitely, the best way is to wager. If behavior is good and God exists, the reward is eternal bliss, and if he does not believe, he has little to lose but the reward is damnation. He said belief was the most sensible wager. Pascal is best known for his Wager Theory.

LEIBNIZ (1646-1674): He propounded that everything has a cause and nothing happens without a reasons, and that identical things share

the same properties. He stated that if the world was created by God, this must be the best possible world. The atoms of nature are real elements.

BERKLEY (1685-1753): George Berkley held that only minds and spirits exist; there is no such thing as matter. 'To be is to be perceived.' A devout Anglican, he believed that God has to e brought back to the center stage.

VOLTAIRE (1694-1778): a revolutionary free thinker, Voltaire championed reason over ignorance, intolerance, bigotry, superstition and believed like Locke that knowledge comes from experience. He initiated the age 0of reason.

DAVID HUME (1711-1776): An empiricist, he argued that knowledge based on experience was false; everything must be proved empirically. For God's existence, evidence must be provided.

J.J. ROUSSEAU (1712-1779): a political philosopher, in his 'Social Contract', he argued for establishment of an ideal society in which there would be no inequalities of class among people. The new society will give citizens liberty, freedom, and justice. The state would be ruled by an elective aristocracy and the citizens would identify themselves with state's interest and vote for common interest. Rousseau's ideas were championed by leaders of French Revolution. He was criticized that his ideas would lead to totalitarianism.

ADAM SMITH (1723-1790): He advocated free economy and is known as the father of modern capitalism – that unintentional consequences of intended actions will benefit the whole society. He advocated free trade and competition in 'Wealth of Nations'. His ideas laid the foundation for Britain's economic and industrial expansion. He criticized mercantilism and protectionism. But he has come in for criticism because unchecked capitalism is exploitative and creates more problems.

IMMANUEL KANT (1724-1804): according to Kant, knowledge presupposes active participation of human mind as also of laws of nature and of morality grounded in reason. In the 'Critique of Reason', he

synthesized rationalism and empiricism. Kant reconciled the rationalists who think knowledge is gained by intellect and the empiricists who think mind is a blank state and knowledge is gained through sensory experiences. Mind takes active part in shaping the world, and organizing and categorizing sense data. There are 12 categories: substance, cause and effect, reciprocity, necessity, possibility, existence, totality, unity, plurality, limitation, reality and negation. In his second Critique he tackled the question of ethics. This is universal law. After Aristotle, Kant is the second most influential Western philosopher.

GEORGE W.F. HEGEL (1770-1831): Hegel believed in an absolute spirit (pure thought), identical with reality. His aim was to develop a system of philosophy which might interpret and develop past, present and future; it is dynamic and does not stand still. Man owes his existence to state which is dynamic. His ultimate goal is to achieve self recognition that is bound up with the Absolute (spirit) – the ultimate essence of being. History is the search of being - for absolute knowledge. Individuals don't have power to direct or control it. They are enveloped in the spirit of time (zeitgeist) and driven by existence; history keeps on moving forward. This is governed by dialectical which formulates another theory. The two ideas are incompatible but they generate a third idea -synthesis. This process continues till geist recognizes its ultimate reality. Hegel applied the logic to society and state. This process would continue till the ideal of conflict-free state is not achieved. For his concept of state, Hegel came under severe attack.

JAMES Mill (1773-1836) and Jeremy Bentham enunciated utilitarianism and called for social reforms. Mill stressed the need of education as the chief engine of progress. This is the base of politics. The government would maximize community happiness, achievable in monarchy, aristocracy or democracy dependent on merit. (Men over 40 could vote and middle class govern.) John S. Mill was also a utilitarian.

ALEXIS de TOCQEVILLE (1805-1859) pioneered a scientific approach to the study of human society – a new political science for a ne world. In 'Democracy in America' he combined political science with sociological analysis.

FEMINIST PHILOSOPHERS: The Western world's first feminist philosopher, Mary Wellstonecraft (1759-1797) had revolutionary views on women, church and monarchy scandalized her contemporaries. She asked for woman's recognition equal to man and advanced suffrage, abolition of monarchy.

FREDERIC NEITZSCHE (1844-1900): He challenged Christianity and its life denying moral code and argued for replacement of religion with life affirming alternative and said people should not be expected to follow outdated societies and religions. He propounded a doctrine of will to power viz one need control one's passions and turn the will to power into a creative force and be master of his destiny.

Edmund Husserl (1858-1938), phenomenologist, John Dewey (1854-1952), pragmatist, Bergson, A.N. Bergson, A, N. Whitehead, Bertrand Russell, George Santyayan, Darwin were other prominent philosophers and scientists of modern times.

SCIENCE

The Age of Faith had its concomitants in the Age of Reason that brought progress in science. People unified by dogma and bound together overcame parochialism and prejudices. Science engendered liberalism and equality among people. Religious minded individuals and dogmatists derided scientific theories and scientific findings that exposed superstitions (e.g. Genesis of universe in 7 days and gender inequality). The theory of evolution traced evolution of biological functions through random mutation and natural selection and what we humans are by chance- and otherwise humans and animals had a common history and they separated because of evolution. Earlier, philosopher John Locke had theorized human equality under law. There is nothing wrong in saying that colored people were descendants of Hams; after all genes mutate randomly and DNA\RNA copy errors alter genetic inheritance of organs. Inheritance was rejected by religion, not by secular connections of science. Science is both scientific and secular.

Science is powerful, authoritative and self correcting. It draws on

intellectual resources. It collects facts, analyzes them and provides a correct result (value) provided the facts are correct. Science and technology bring rapid changes in society and progress in human knowledge. Besides, they enhance employment prospects especially for young people who do not want to stick to their family occupation, for science and technology have opened several avenues for them. Because of science and technology, the sons and daughters of peasants and labor can aspire for non-manual or jobs considered as menial. They can look up for intellectual pursuits. (Studies in humanities and arts too have many openings and help in all round progress of students.) They emphasize universal education and help in all round progress of humanity. Science flourishes in democracies and it has even instigated people to work for democratic revolutions. Laws of Science transcend official dogmas and subjective values and unify humanity. Democracy and liberalism foster science which opens windows for people's intellectual and material progress. Aristotle's ideas about world, society, individual and life prevailed for long and were accepted by people. These were updated by Ptolemy's cosmology which regarded shining stars as gods. Medieval Christians believed that their faith equipped them with knowledge of everything. They picked up the idea of St Augustine that knowledge of philosophy made man happy. Newton's 'Principia' (1687) brought enlightenment and created demand for democratic rights of individual and acted as a vaccine against superstitions and authoritarianism.

We have already mentioned about the contributions of Nicholas Copernicus and Johannes Kepler (1571-1630). The Dane Tyco Brahe (1546-1601) had observed that orbits of planets are elliptical, not circular. Science, banking upon enquiry, innovation and improvement challenged the status of happenings. Discoveries made by experiments proved effective in curing diseases, reducing toil, and making money. Principia drew the threads of Renaissance Science into a quantitative theory of gravitation that predicted motions of planets and comets in the sky. Newton calculated that Sun's gravitational force holds the earth in orbit by concentrating the inertia that would otherwise send space screening. With Galileo and Bacon knowledge got separated from

philosophy which too helped in the progress of science and society. For Science which subdues nature, happiness meant physical security. On the other hand the Church run by prelates wanted to maintain their power by suppressing reality as they assumed that science and reason trump religion, salvation and mystery and deny there is a super power.

The peoples in Europe believed in divine rights of kings on earth. Science underscored that humans have natural rights. King James (and King Charles) of England believed in divine rights of kings. In 1689 the Wigs (Progressive) prevailed over the Tories (Conservative) and the Bill of Rights made England a constitutional republic.

Science evolved along two paths – Baconian and Cartesian. Bacon believed in induction and an overall world soul from which all souls originated and to that they all return. The Cartesians relied on deduction. Mathematician Descartes had a vision of a unified system of knowledge and tried to build it on deduction. He advocated Copernican cosmology and argued that science was deductible from mathematics and all phenomena can be explained mathematically.

Locke propounded the doctrine of democratic natural rights that governments are obliged by social contract to protect man's natural rights to life, liberty and ownership of property. Locke's treatises were considered seditious. (Apprehending trouble, Locke decamped to Holland.) Adam Smith, Belle, Diderot, Voltaire, Leibniz, Spinoza and other brilliant persons moved enlightenment further ahead. U.S. President Jefferson named Bacon, Locke and Newton as the three greatest men of his time.

England was the first country to establish PARLIAMENT and Western countries (with their companies that exploited the poor) were the first to establish DEMOCRACY which created a symbiotic relationship of free nations but demanded liberty and in return gave social benefits, knowledge, wealth and power. The social experiments of repressive countries possessing talents, natural resources and control over media failed while their business tycoons and politicians opted for immediate gains. These countries were stuck up on superstitions and did not move

away from centuries- old traditions that retarded movement. Eastern and Middle Eastern countries suffered from this malaise. The Western countries were adventurous and moving by sea routes captured distant lands. The imperialist powers fought with each other to expand their empires. Simultaneously their scientists made new researches that made people's life easier and more comfortable. The progress was visible in their life and in architecture and cities. Rome was designed mostly by Popes, Paris by absolute Bourbon kings and London by their autocrat kings. All these used baroque style which exuded the crusading Christian spirit and expressed the skill of the powerful monarchs and leading privileged upper classes of the 16th and 17th centuries. The dialogues between them led to civil wars from which emerged monarchies in varied forms on which Church could not impose any constraints. However, when monarchies weakened medieval institutions, scientists found freedom to research and work.

Great discoveries made by physicists between 1890 and 1914 destroyed the very concept of nature that had been uncovered by Newton and other scientists. (Nature implied the existence of absolute and distinct space, time, matter, energy and velocity). It was discovered that matter and energy were interchangeable and that matter is not composed of invisible atoms, rather the atoms are composed of electrically charged particles, while mass increases with velocity. In fact New Physics was created. Wilhelm Roentgen discovered X-ray. Pier and Madame Curie showed that Radium emits energy. In 1911 Rutherford showed that the atom was composed of positively charged core (nucleus) that moved around it. Neil Bohr explained his quantum theory by the behavior of electrons. (It was proposed by Max Planck in 1900. Einstein elaborated it in his theory of Relativity that energy was emitted in bundles of quantum (small groups). In 1927 Werner Heisenberg propounded the theory of uncertainty. Einstein asserted that the basic idea of absolute space, time of Newton has to be abandoned. In his Special theory of Relativity all motion is relative to the speed in which the observer was travelling. Mass depends upon velocity. Mass and energy are interchangeable and their relationship can be defined by E= mc2 (energy equals mass

multiplied by the speed of light.) He showed that the idea of absolute space and time should be replaced by a four dimensional space-time continuum.(He argued that light waves curve as a result of gravitation. It was questioned that if space, time and motion were not accepted as external realities what certainty was left?.

A significant breakthrough was achieved in Chemistry. Researches of Lavoisier and Priesley threw out the prevailing concept of four elements of Aristotle. Lavoisier drew up a list of 32 basic chemical elements and Priestley discovered several basic combinations. (e.g. carbon monoxide by the weight of atoms of elements.) Advances were made in studies of energy. Heat, light, electricity, magnetism were forms of energy. Weightless, these were connected with each other. James Joule and Herman Holmsbolz found convertibility of one form of energy into another while after conversion of energy will remain the same in the world.

Darwin's findings in sociology challenged (1)Genesis which brought on him the wrath of Church and (2) the creation of immutable species of God opposed the idea of man being the highest form of creation. He did not agree that change in biology was product of divine purpose. He stated that species evolved from a common ancestor (in Origin of Species) and human beings were biologically related to inveterate, especially to monkeys which drew lots of protests. Darwin took place beside Newton.

Hanna Bromberg, Mahler and Strauss did pioneering work on sound.

Germany: About 1885 when the rest of the world was experiencing economic depression, and instead of taking action to avert depression the vested interests were ignoring the human tragedy helped preserve monarchies, militarism and national traditions by introducing reforms that staved off public unrest. In Germany Bismarck planned and set liberal and progressive groups against each other but bought democratic forces to keep people satisfied. During 1919-1933 the Weimer Republic remained unstable. Hitler proved shrewder and established his dictatorship. Fascinated by the Doctrine of Aryan Nordic Race he took to

cleansing genetic impurities and to achieve his objective he prepared for World War II. But might did not win over right.

(The Germans manufactured automobiles, gliders, machine guns, X-ray, and found quantum mechanics, Einstein's Theory of Relativity, aspirin, heroin etc). In the midst of depression, Hitler had come to power and to preserve power he gave incentives to bureaucracy, encouraged expressionist art, nudity, drugs, vulgar dances in the name of best music. In schools he emphasized on will power and pseudo science. But his anti-human policies, including executions in ghettoes proved his undoing. (Hitler lost the war and he took his own life.)To eliminate Hitler's destructive power, after WWII, UNO and other agencies were created. But the desire to rule the world caused many regional wars. Fortunately atomic war was avoided. Wars in 2001 in Iraq and Afghanistan have let loose the genii of fundamentalism. But this does not mean that science is destructive. In fact science has contributed much to the welfare of mankind.

If compassion was a unique gift of Jesus Christ to humanity, in my opinion, the most precious gift of Christianity to the world is scientific approach (attitude) that people started adopting from 17th century onward leaving behind Aristotle's world view. Up to the middle of the 4th century Christians had suffered at the hands of Roman authorities and Jewish priests. Second Millennium saw wars and wars. And, now the world is suffering from the Islamist fundamentalists and conservative ecclesiasts, and no less from the greed of the rich and superstitious.

Nevertheless scientists continue their search for truth. The research in Switzerland is a pointer. (Even in a country like India its scientists have succeeded in sending their plane to Mars.)

ECONOMICS All countries and people in general aspire for the betterment of their economic growth. Good economic conditions make a society more open, tolerant and democratic. The economic growth is faster in free market or free market is more efficient and faster than the markets that are excessively regulated, controlled or sheltered or shielded from competition. What does free market mean? Does free

market mean that the market systems should be made free to operate? Adam Smith (1723-1790), the proponent of the theory of free market said the health of a nation should be measured by quantity, quality and variety of goods its citizens consumed and not by the gold they hoarded. Production is the engine of wealth. According to Smith, merchants were better informed and better suited for doing business than the gentry or king, and that free trade and free flow of information improves the lot of the poor.

Inconsiderate of people's condition, the Europeans brought dreadful misfortune on the colonies under their control in the East, in fact in the world. Thomas Malthus explained this by the theory of population he propounded. Economic theories were also propounded by David Hume, James Mill and J.S. Mill. Alfred Marshall brought mathematical sophistication to money matters which formed in 1950 the theory of modern economy of John Maynard Keynes that took note of the shock of economic cycles such as inflation or spending public money to kick start a sagging economy. Keynes was opposed by the Chicago School associated with Milton Freedman who was opposed to government intervention. The Chicago School championed open market and low taxes which spurred free trade\ globalization. In 1990 they converted the notion to a market economy. They stressed classical free market values combined with the use of empirical tools to analyze the working of markets. Individual liberty regarded free market an embodiment of liberty as well as the source of financial strength. This had a historical value.

Going back to past, we find that after the fall of Rome, for one thousand years Europe was poor. This was a period of incessant corruption, warfare, lawlessness, obsession with myths and almost impenetrable mindlessness. In 1759, the per capita per annum income was very low. Every fourth year crop failures caused famine when people were reduced to foraging for herbs and roots. In the 18th century, the median life of Europeans was 24 years. Ignorance was ubiquitous, there were hardly any innovations, after life was considered a certainty and all worth knowing as already known. Europe was fiscally and

intellectually paralyzed. Prosperity was known by gold and borrowing money was frowned upon and lending money was a sin. Poverty and fear were rampant and monarchs and bishops who held purse strings were autocrats.

At this stage science helped make agrarian reforms which freed young men and women to try their hands at trades and factory work. The Technological innovations and specialization amplified productivity. As a result, capitalists, merchants and traders made profits and became rich. They cultivated manners, wore elegant dress and built country houses. Clerics complained that lust for gold was sullying love for God. The conditions of common man were not good. There were protests and riots in which many lost their lives. From 13th century to 19th century the course of market system consisted of components, land, labor and capital. (Keynes' theory made a difference.) Durlng the 1870s and 1880s, there emerged a populist party which nominated Jennings Bryan as President. Bryan campaigned issues of farmers. The populists and democrats nominated Republican William McKinley. Bryan was defeated which demoralized farmers and labor. Several factors contributed to Industrialization which helped growth of big business. Capitalism holds that free competition produces fair prices for consumers. But big businesses were interested in maximizing their profits. The captains of industry set prices for industries which formed monopoly trust. Two factors contributed in support of business: one, economic theory of laissez faire i.e. let them do what they want and government has no right to interfere and hands off with private enterprises. Government extended them economic support through grants of land, loans and high tariffs. (A tariff adds money to commodity's price of imported goods) and, two, the theory of social Darwinism which added to wealthy business man's status. Its rationale was that those who lived in poverty deserved their plight. It was against social reforms that countered the natural orders. This period was known as the Golden Age. A class of small businessmen lived extravagantly while their labor was paid low wages and their consumers were fleeced. Wealthy businessmen were able to buy votes in Congress. (The class of super rich included the likes

of Rockfeller (oil), J.P. Morgan (banking). But there were businessmen like Carnegie who gave large donations to charities.

About the end of 19th century people suffered from laissez faire and called on government for help. Small businesses complained that big businesses were pushing them out of market, farmers complained about higher transportation charges, consumers demanded protection from high prices and restoration of free or non-monopolistic trade. State legislation and Federal Government passed out trust laws, enforcement of restriction which was difficult because of political corruption. Maxim railroad, rate laws were established but the courts declared the laws unconstitutional. A decade later Federal government passed Inter–state Commerce Act of 1887 forbidding railroads from forming monopolistic price agreement that outlawed some of their discriminatory pricing practices. The enforcement proved hard. By 1890 the anti-service Sherman Act restrained trade by trust or conspiracy but the government could not enforce it too. No President willingly opposed big business.

The big business had labor for relatively low price. Organized labor Unions tried to represent the interest of workers, they bargained for higher wages and better working conditions. Often they came in conflict which resulted in strikes and boycott, as dissatisfied workers walked off the job or became violent which scared labor sympathizer. Some striking workers were killed. Someone threw a bomb that killed men, including police officers. The police charged the crowd killing more people. Some labor leaders were arrested and convicted of inciting riots. People lost sympathy for Unions and also lost interest in immigrants who were in unions in large numbers. Police whipped up anti-immigration sentiments.

Following assassination of Lincoln a serious crisis developed and anti-proceedings against Jackson and proceedings against thousands of people were taken. Big business and industrialization grew rapidly. President Grant was riddled with scandals (he experienced the heat (of Black Money, Whiskey Ring) as a politician-statesman. 1876-Election produced first major dispute in voting results. Tilden won more popular

votes but he did not have majority in Electoral College. The situation was resolved by Hayes-Tilden compromise of 1877. With Southern support Hayes was made Provisional President. Without military presence, the White majority in South disenfranchised the Freed Blacks. After removal of Hayes, Grover Cleveland became President. Under him some corruption ended. Protective tariffs were lowered. Working improved and the idea of public service was revitalized. Protective taxes were lowered which meant higher prices for American consumers; Cleveland lost Presidency to Benjamin Harrison. Republican Congressman McKinley guided legislation to raise taxes by 50% on many goods. This outraged voters led to democratic slides.

In 1896 there was economic depression. The farmers and labor forged an alliance in support of Jennings. But with big business support Kinley won the election. His expansionist policy led to U.S. involvement in international affairs. Spanish-American War (1898) on Cuba was caused by Yellow Junction. War atrocities of Spaniards turned public opinion in favor of war. (Maine was bombed by Spain.)

Trade relationship with China: To crack European monopoly, John Hay, U.S. Secretary of State orchastrated open-door policy which established joint rights of Germany, Japan, Great Britain, France and Italy to trade with China. By Boxer Rebellion China tried to get rid of foreigners. U.S. and European nations supported rebellions and restored the Qing dynasty. By the turn of century, the civil rights advances made by African-Americans disappeared. Legal segregation was legalized under the Jim-Crow laws. A Supreme Court Judge justified racial discrimination. This was opposed and many strong Afro-American leaders emerged. (This brought to life NAACP (National Association for Advancement of Colored People).

Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and Woodrow Wilson directed reform movement and thus started the Progressive Era (1900-1920)in U.S. history. (Literary muckrakers raked public opinion to expose corruption.)

Booker T Washington advocated to refrain the agitating White majority and strove to achieve economic equality through job training and diligent work. He believed that once economic parity was achieved, political and social right would follow. In contrast W.E. Dubois argued that White job training was beneficial, Afro-Americans should aggressively make demands and urged for 1\10th of community crusade for equality.

Roosevelt applied big stick diplomacy in his foreign policy, square deal (and fairness) which all Americans desired. He revised business regulations. Northern Securities case broke up a strong railroad monopoly. Taft adopted Dollar Diplomacy but when he moved to the right, he lost support. The 16t Amendment allowed govt. to collect income and other taxes. (The 17th Amendment required direct election. He created Departments of Labor and Commerce.)

Coming to the controversy earlier mentioned, Keynes was opposed by the rightist Chicago School that was associated with Milton Freedman who was opposed to government interventions. He stressed free market values combined with the use of empirical tools to analyze the working of markets, individual liberty and regarded free market as an embodiment of liberty as well as a source of financial strength. The Chicago school championed open markets and low taxes which spurred free trade (or globalization). Both called themselves liberals. But when in 1990 they converted the notion to a market within, food prices soared many times. Transition from command and control to a market economy ended the agonizing period of hyper inflammation of prices. It was forgotten that the corporate concentration of power inhibited creativity and freedom while illiberal practices were alleviated through social action and government intervention. Did freedom work? Free markets are more efficient and grow economies faster. It may be recalled that Galbraith was in favor of autonomy of individual and distinguishing the social progress by science. When Galbraith was U.S. ambassador in India, he made some concrete suggestions for improving the Indian economy. (A few decades later measures taken by former Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh helped improve India's economy.)

Will Narendra Modi's government which controls the political systems in Delhi, the finance capital in Mumbai and growth impulses in some states be able "to transform the tenor, idiom and objective of government business relationship" which is needed to counter the growing public perception "that was sacrificed by a self serving nexus of politicians and businessmen." Until 1984, the political leadership had maintained a distance from business houses. But this changed when Rajiv Gandhi introduced liberalization that developed cozy relationship between government and big business. This was crony capitalism, policy capture by large business houses. Crony capitalism operates at high speed in open markets which win or lose wealth at unprecedented rate but does not stop, rather it may widen the wealth gap at faster rate until there is a change in fundamental values. A school of economists says that if we are to survive the system will have to snap back and values like sustainability, community cooperation, generosity, patience, subtlety, deliberation, reflection and slowness will need to return. This is sheer generalization.

During the nexus of UPA's dispensation of over a decade, in India, there was degeneration into allocations of natural resources to select companies as was exposed by the Controller and Auditor General. The degeneration is being blocked by stopping such allocations. Another change made is to dispense away with delegations of businessmen accompanying the P.M. or President on foreign sojourn. The Ministers and government officers will not cavort with businessmen which may roll back license and inspector raj. It may also result in larger FDI. (India's instance is illustrative of economic growth.)

The Western Civilization has many achievements to its credit but it seems to have lost sight of man as individual. It may be said that the benefit of the economic system is the combination of religion, society and science.

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GLOSSARY

- Absolute: A principle that is source of all reality
- Aesthetics: expression of nature and nature of beauty
- A Priori: known to be true or false before a thing is experienced
- Cathedral: an imposing church
- Crusade: a means to fighting war against injustice
- Deconstruction: to undermine and refute one's own theory
- Dialectic: method of contradicting and reconciliation by synthesis
- Dogma: principal bond of a religion, a fossilized belief
- Dualism: reality consists of two basic elements
- Elan Vital: life force
- Empiricism: to determine a thing is true or not
- Ethics: normative, relativism, teleological, virtue, Epicureanism
- Evangelical: to convert to Christianity; to preach gospel
- Evangelism: zealous effort to spread gospel
- Evolution: overtime transformation of a species into another species
- Existentialism: belief that there is no human essence before human existence.
- False consciousness: psychological state of mind of members dominated by ideology.
- Forms: According to Plato and Aristotle everything depends on forms- universals –ultimate objects.
- Heathen: one who does not worship
- Holism: Parts of a system which are not independent of the whole system.
- Idealism: world does not exist independent of human mind so reality is non-material
- Innate idea: an idea present at birth

- Induction: an argument in which conclusion does not follow from premises.
- Logical Positivism: belief that all philosophy must be based on observation and testing, else it is false.
- Monism: reality is one unified whole
- Nihilism: nothing exists, nothing deserves to exist or wishes its own destruction.
- Nominalism: Universals are unreal and non-existent
- Noumena: things in themselves
- Ontology: theory of being,; appearance and reality
- Pagan: a person who has no religion
- Pantheism: view that everything is divine
- Phenomenology: reaching a relative, subjective; objects have no independent existence
- Polytheism: belief that many gods exist
- Pantheism: view that everything is divine.
- Platonic realism: theory of language that claims that universals denote real essence; forms are more real than physical objects
- Polytheism: belief that many gods exist.
- Positivism: knowledge is verifiable by observation and understood through scientific principles.
- Pluralism: reality is composed of numerous beings (not of one-monism or two –dualism
- Pragmatism: meaning and truth are related between thought and language.
- Quantum Mechanism: A theory of atoms and particles that behavior of entities cannot be explained in terms of mechanistic physics nor causality.
- Rationalism: a priori knowledge derived from reason
- Realism: real material world is accessible by senses
- Reductionism: complex reality is reducible to simple basic levels;

objects can be explained as atomic structures and all mental functions as neurological events.

- Scholasticism: branch of philosophy developed and systematized according to theology.
- Skepticism: denial of the possibility of knowledge
- See: official seat of a bishop
- Semiotics: Study of signs; of behavior and rituals
- Set theory: study of numerical objects in terms of sets to establish logical sequence; among sets.
- Skepticism: denial of possibility of knowledge.
- Scholasticism: aim to reconstruct Christian thought with teaching of Aristotle.
- Solipsism: only self-acquired knowledge is true knowledge.
- Sophism: 5th century Athenian that espoused relativism against epistemology and ethical absolutism that emphasized rhetoric against reason.
- Solipsism: only self exists
- Stoicism: human happiness could be achieved only by accepting good and bad with equanimitu
- Structuralism: human mind is universal
- Subjectivism: All truths and values are relative to individuals.
- Syllogism: reasoning to draw conclusion from premises
- Synod: election of Bishops
- Theology: systematic study of God and his properties. (Theo means God and logy is study).
- Teleological: Explaining in terms of goals and purposes.
- Utilitarianism: society should aim at the happiness of the greater number of people.
- Universals: a term designating common names e.g. redness, wealth.

GIP PUBLICATIONS

Selected works of H.N.Verma and Amrit Verma

TRILOGY: Jihad, Jatpat (caste system), Crusade. Jihad was awarded by the Supreme Court Bar Assoc.

Anubhuti (Collection of selected essays of Hari Narain Verma, published|b'cast from 1946 to 1984)

100 GREAT INDIANS THROUGH THE AGES

A collection of insightful biographies of India's 100 greatest personalities from Shiva of ancient times to Gandhi and Nehru of 20th century, chronicles their lives and outstanding contributions to humanity, Indian culture, politics, philosophy, religion, spiritualism, literature, Maths, Sciences and Fine Arts.

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-The Statesman

An introduction to India's cultural evolution-Link

A valuable asset to libraries.-Hindustan Times

25 EMINENT INDIANS (1947-2005)

A sequel to 100 Great Indians, the eminent 25 Indians from diverse fields contributed to the ethos and progress of India after Independence.

It provided me information on Ambani, I was looking for and could not get anywhere. -Sarwar

AN EXALTED INDIAN: Harikrishna Mazmundar

Popular among Indo-Americans as Harikrishna Bhai, he is recognized for his voluntary work in USA

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Bring to readers vast mass of information on great and important battles, besides mythology and military events. Vol. II covers six greatest battles fought in modern period in South Asia: The Revolt of 1857, epic sieges of Imphal and Kohima; The 1948, 1965, 1972 wars with Pakistan, and India-China war, 1962, The observations of war veterans is that the battle accounts cover history, international relations and military affairs.

A fascinating introduction to important battles of India.- India West

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EMINENT INDIAN WOMEN, &

INDIAN WOMEN THROUGH THE AGES

The scope of work on history, archeology, mythology and science is immense. Real life sketches of female saints, seers, poets, philosophers, patriots, warriors, builders, scientists. It affirms that men and women of East and West create broadly similar evolution overtime.

An impossible task of encompassing religion, culture and philosophies of the world.- India Post

It introduces to readers the rich varieties in Greek, Roman and Indian civilizations. A treasure information.- PATRIC BRASNON

WHAT HAPPENS TO GODS AND DEMONS: GREEK, LATIN, INDIAN

The book introduces rich varieties in Eastern and Western civilazations

JIHAD

The sixth pillar of Islam, Jihad is of three types-materialistic, savior, spiritualistic (Sufism). The current Jihad is Salfist (Wahabi). The first Jihad took place in 630ACE.

One of the ten top books on religion and philosophy published during 2008-2010

AWARDED BY THE Supreme Court Bar Association in 2011

JATPAT (Caste – The Curse of India

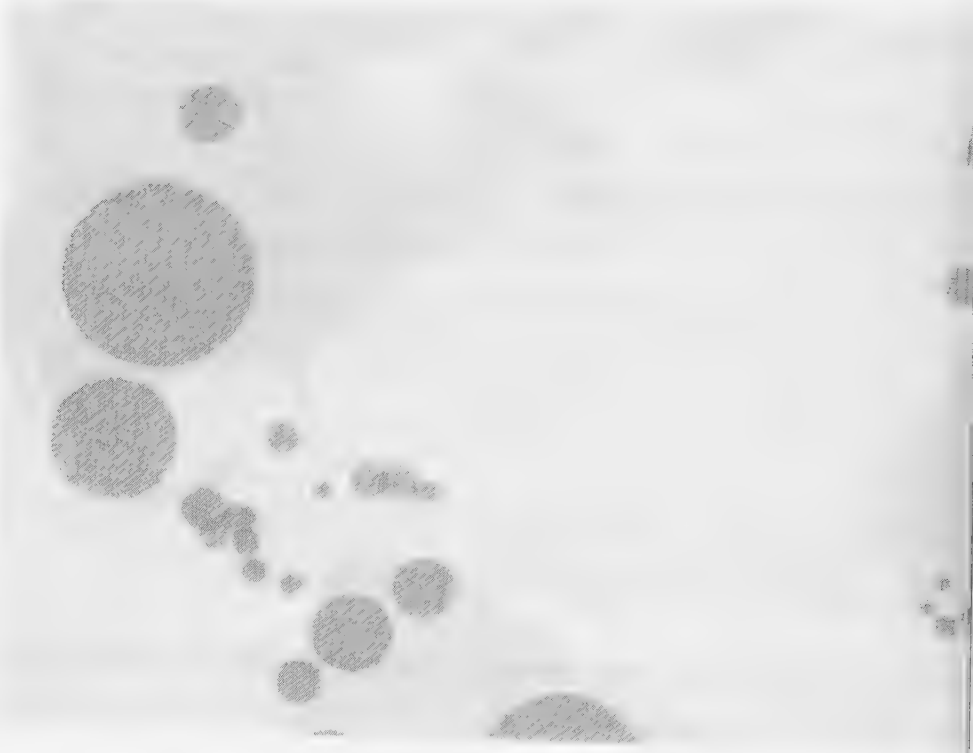
WORKS of Amrit Verma

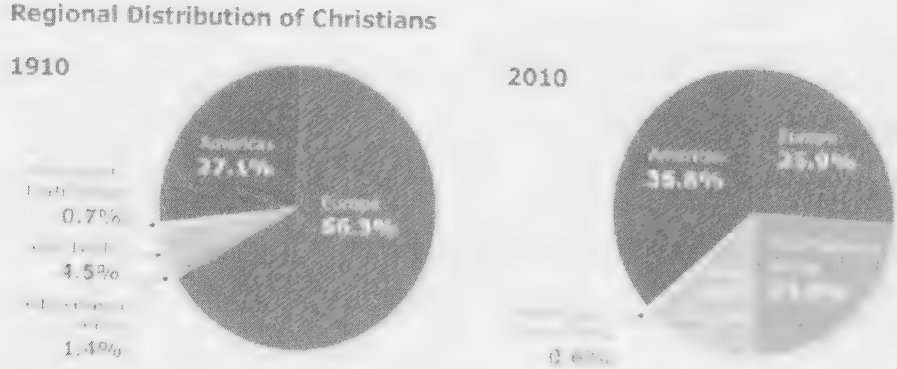
FORTS OF INDIA

SAU BHARATIYA YUG PURUSHA (Hindi)

Alekh and Abhilekh (Hindi)

MAPS




Regional Distribution of Christians
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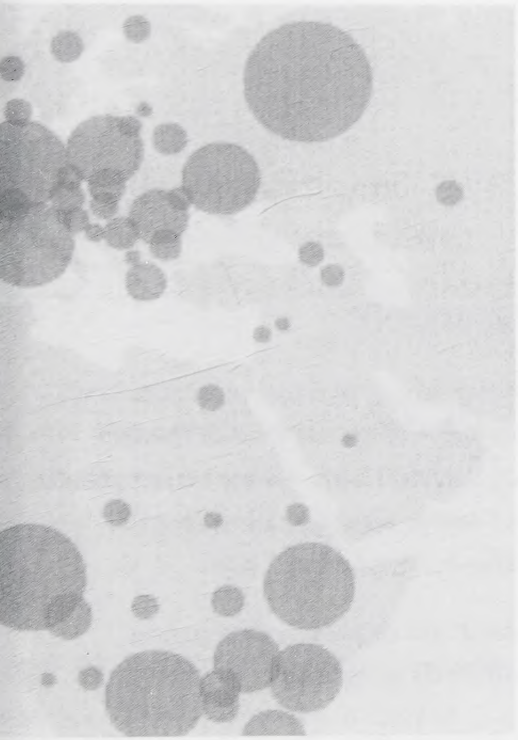
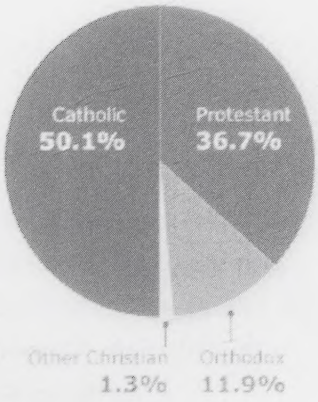
2010
Europe
27.1%
Europe
25.9%
0.7%
4.5%
1.4%



Major Christian Traditions



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Global Christianity, December 2011

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Rishab, Malvika, Mukta, Gautam

IN APPRECIATION

I had an opportunity to read Jihad and Jatpat. It is difficult for the well placed to give up their privileges and to challenge the dharma. Yet it would seem to me that the liberation of India would lead to the liberation of all people. Of course, we in the West have our own history of 'liberation' which was for those who were privileged. Even so I was saddened to read about the Jatpat and the position of Indian leadership, including Gandhi whom I hold him in high regard.

- Chris Schmit
Sunnyvale, Cal.

THE AUTHOR

H.N. VERMA is a prolific writer and has written biographies (100 Great Indians, Eminent Indian Women, 25 Eminent Indians (1947-2005), Decisive Battles of India (two Volumes), and a trilogy- Jihad, Jatpat (Caste System) and Crusade- on angularities of three prominent religions (Hindu, Christianity and Islam). He worked on responsible positions and in 1984, retired as Director (Public Relations) from the Posts & Telecom Board. He was a Fellow of the Indian Council of Historical Research.

In 1985, he joined the Supreme Court of India Bar Association and practiced law. Since 2005 he resides most of the time with his family in California.

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